



Celebrate St. Paul's!



137 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 19, Number 1
January 2023

What's Inside?

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Pursue Jesus

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Bingo Night

Another Year for God



"TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN"

Here's a trivia question for you to start the new year: who said this, Jesus or Spiderman?
"To whom much is given, much will be required"

Well, this sentiment permeates scripture, especially the New Testament! And in the Gospel of Luke, 12:48 (NIV), Jesus says this:

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked".

Much MORE!?! Does Jesus want us to give ALL that we have (and then some!)??

Well, he did tell the "rich man" (in Matthew 19:21) to sell everything he owned and give it to the poor. Is that what he expects us to do? No, I certainly don't think so.

But, Jesus definitely does expect us to "serve others". There can be no doubt about that! And clearly, he wants us to give and to serve others willingly, and cheerfully-----from our hearts!



How do I feel about our hearts here at St. Paul's?

Really good. I really do. When I think of the toy bins overflowing; the People's Pantry stacked with food; the quilt ministry; GHB; the special offerings.....I think we've done a lot this past year.

Can we do even more in the year ahead?? Yes. Will we?? I think so. I hope so.

When I think of every single person in our church family, without exception, I think we are incredibly blessed. We have our share of challenges, heartaches, and regrets (don't dwell on those!), but I can not imagine that any of us would want to trade places with anyone else on earth.

Much has been given.

Very best wishes for a joyous, healthy new year, full of love and service to others.

Phil

"each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (our own St. Paul, 2 Cor 9:7)

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!

Being Neighborly

The last time you moved into a new community, did your neighbors welcome you? From previous moves, I fondly recall receiving smiles, handshakes, baked goods and houseplants. Because one new neighborhood included two parsonages, I wasn't surprised to receive invitations to worship. After that, I began anticipating similar invitations, even though we had a church home. We don't always take our new neighbors up on the offers, but knowing that churchgoers live nearby is comforting.

When a new family moves into your neighborhood, how do you respond? Does it cross your mind to invite them to worship? Maybe they're waiting for — even needing — that invitation. To ask, you don't need to be a pastor or a member of the evangelism committee ... just a friendly neighbor.

—Julie Lee

Pursue Jesus—and Your Passions

If you struggle with making and keeping resolutions, you're not alone. It can be discouraging to focus on what you're doing "wrong" and all the difficult changes in store. Yet January offers great opportunities to listen to God's direction. After all, Jesus came to give us abundant life and wants us to pursue him.



As you review the previous year, ask: What brought me joy? How did I grow? How did I help others? What did I do that no one else could have done? Whether your list includes spending time outside, mentoring or coaching young people or making crafts to give away or sell, continue doing what brings you joy. God gives us each unique gifts and circumstances, so live passionately for him this year!

—Janna Firestone

Looking Ahead

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| January 1 | New Year's Day |
| January 6 | Epiphany |
| January 16 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| January 21 | Bingo |
| February 14 | Valentines Day |
| February 20 | Presidents Day |
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday |
| February 26 | 1st Sunday in Lent |

Just to keep everyone in the loop. Our church consistory has approved a Christmas bonus for each of our 5 musicians. These gifts are in the 2023 budget, so the money was already accounted for in the coming year.



St. Paul's is going to have a bingo night on January 21st. We have organized a committee to finalize the details. This would include Gerri and Grace. So, if anyone is interested in helping, please contact them.



Consistory News



I want to thank everyone involved for the success of our first Arts and Craft show at St. Paul's. This would especially include Grace and Lynda for all their hard work.

I also want to thank everyone that helped with the hanging of the greens. Our church looks great once again!!!! Many members helped with the decorating, but I want to give a extra shout-out to Troy and Lynda.



Your 2023 consistory consists of Steve Renninger as Trustee, Lynda Cooper and Grace Shoher-Smith as Elders, Barry Gehman, Charlie Storms, and myself as Deacons. The officers are Tim Lutz - president, Charlie Storms - vice president, Barry Gehman -secretary, Steve Renninger – financial secretary and Dee Sprecher – treasurer.



I hope everyone has a great holiday and a super New Year!!!!!!

Tim Lutz
Consistory President

St. Paul's did a great job on the Christmas toy collection. The box was overflowing and I am sure many kids will have a much better Christmas thanks to our church.



The Water Street Rescue Mission food collection box is also getting fuller and fuller, which once again is a real tribute to how our small church family reaches out to help others.



The next consistory meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, January 8 at 11:30 am.**

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 December

Alta, Cindy, Chad & Regina, Gretchen, Hannah, Harper, Henry, Jane, Joe, Kieran, Larry, Maggie, Matt, Steve & Lori, the Andies family, the Morton family, and Pam's 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 | 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.

- Laundry Detergent (unscented)
- Fruit juices
- Juice packs for children

With winter among us, below is a list of things the Grace House ladies could use.

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

Updated Needs

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

Thank you for your continued support .

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

January

- 5 Judy Enck
- 12 Charlie Storms
- 13 Betty Musser
- 23 Sharon Blechschmidt
- 31 Harold Good



Happy Birthday!

Anniversaries



Grace & Jared Smith - 2 years on January 12



Bible Quiz



How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100



Financial Report



Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for November 2022:

Checking Account

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$63,575.16 |
| + Receipts | 8,088.08 |
| - Disbursements | 6,947.91 |
| - Transfers | 0 |
| Ending Balance | \$64,715.33 |

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

November's offering only total was \$4,915.00.

Another Year For God

Another year is dawning; dear Father, let it be,
in working or in waiting, another year with thee....

Another year of progress, another year of praise,
another year of proving thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness for thy love;
another year of training for holier work above.

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
on earth, or else in heaven, another year for thee.

—Frances Ridley Havergal



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

| | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| January 1 | Tim & Pat Lutz |
| January 8 | Grace Shober & Lynda Cooper |
| January 15 | Charlie & Chris Storms |
| January 22 | Steve Renninger & Barry Gehman |
| January 29 | Tim & Pat Lutz |

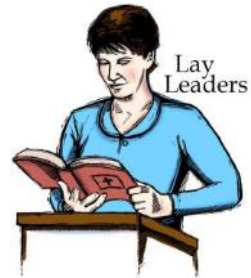
Online Worship: We are holding worship services in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

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



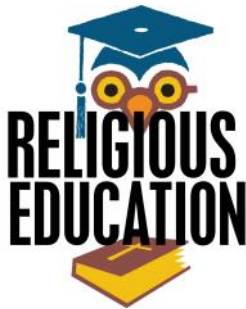
January 1 Sara Renninger
 January 8 Gerri Shober
 January 15 Mary Renninger
 January 22 Dee Sprecher
 January 29 Cheryl Borja

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

February 5 Sara Renninger
 February 12 Gerri Shober
 February 19 Mary Renninger
 February 26 Dee Sprecher

February 5 Grace House Blessings
 February 12 Kieran Connelly
 February 19 Lynda Cooper
 February 26 Charlie Storms

** Indicates communion



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

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

February 5 GHB Sunday-no class
 February 12 Gerri Shober
 February 19 Kathleen Roscioli
 February 26 Barry Gehman

February 5 Lynda Cooper
 February 12 Megan Hennigan
 February 19 Gretchen Martin
 February 26 Naomi Martin

Sponsors



| | |
|------------|------|
| January 1 | open |
| January 8 | open |
| January 15 | open |
| January 22 | open |
| January 29 | open |

| | |
|-------------|------|
| February 5 | open |
| February 12 | open |
| February 19 | open |
| February 26 | open |



| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| January 1 | Gerri Shober |
| January 8 | Kieran Connelly |
| January 15 | Dee Sprecher |
| January 22 | Larry Klaassen |
| January 29 | Judy Enck |

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| February 5 | Cindy Hoffer |
| February 12 | Gretchen Martin |
| February 19 | Ron Frederick |
| February 26 | Nancy Connelly |

Altar Flowers

A new flower chart for 2023 will be posted shortly. If you are interested in sponsoring flowers on a particular Sunday please sign up.



Forms are also available

next to the chart to fill out your information.

The cost for real flowers this coming year will be \$40. Please place the form, along with your payment, in the church office a week before your selected date. Thank you.

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.



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 New Year's Day GHB Worship 10:30 | 2 | 3 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm | 4 | 5 | 6 Epiphany Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am | 7 |
| 8 Worship 10:30 Consistory 11:30 | 9 | 10 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm | 11 Mens & Ladies Bible Study 7pm | 12 Choir 7:00 | 13 Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am | 14 Fellowship Hall Reserved |
| 15 Worship 10:30 | 16 Martin Luther King Jr Day | 17 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm | 18 | 19 | 20 Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am | 21 Bingo 7pm |
| 22 Worship 10:30 | 23 Book Club 6:30 | 24 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm | 25 | 26 | 27 Piano lessons 8:30-10:00 am | 28 |
| 29 Worship 10:30 | 30 | 31 Piano lessons 5:30-7:30 pm | | | | |
| | | | | | | |