



Celebrate St. Paul's!



138 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 20, Number 12
December 2024

What's Inside?

Pancakes @ Paul's

Toy Drive

Hanging of the
Greens

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Eve
Service



“WELCOME TO OUR WORLD”

We say it every year because it's true every year-----He didn't have to do it.

Jesus did not have to leave the comfort of heaven, to be born, cold and hungry, in a cave full of animals.

He did not have to live life in this physical world, wandering from place to place, persecuted, hunted, and ultimately betrayed and crucified.

No, he definitely did not HAVE to do it....and yet he did.

Because of love. He is love. God is love.

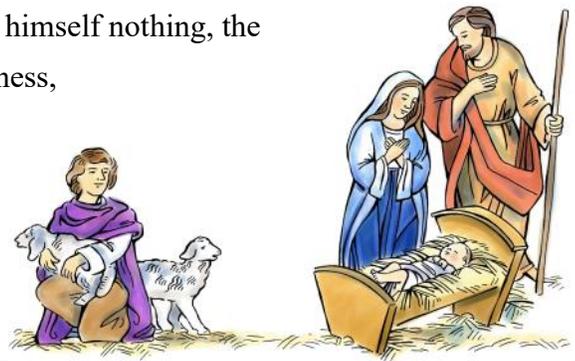
This Christmas season, let us remember and give thanks for the love that came down to save us, in the person of Jesus Christ. And let's be sure to remind ourselves each day of his greatest commandment....to love.

Thank you, Jesus. Welcome to our world.

Phil

“Who being in very nature God, made himself nothing, the very nature of a servant in human likeness, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death on a cross”.

Philippians 2:6-8



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.



“First Sunday Blessing”

December 1st

A special service of music and devotions to start off our month.

Featuring musical guest Shelleen Weaver.

Everyone is welcome and bring a friend!

“Pancakes at Paul’s”

***FREE Community Breakfast
at St. Paul’s UCC Church
December 2nd***



1st Monday of every month 6-9am

*Pancakes Sausage Coffee Juice Toast & Homemade Jelly
(featuring the world’s best sausage)*

St. Paul’s UCC Fellowship Hall

133 Church Street, Bowmansville, Pa. 17507

more info call 717-445-6256

Use the Gift!

At Christmas, God sent his Son to live among us. But he doesn’t want us to be passive recipients of that precious gift. Consider these challenges for the season — and for the new year ahead:

“He became what we are that we might become what he is.”

—Athanasius (4th century)

“When Christ entered our world, he didn’t come to brighten our Decembers but to transform our lives.”

—Rich Miller

“Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man. Why wait for a call when you have a command?”

—Robert Hughes

Looking Ahead

December 1	First Sunday of Advent First Sunday Blessing Hanging of the Greens
December 2	Pancakes @ Paul's
December 14	Christmas Caroling Hayride
December 22	Christmas Fund Offering
December 24	Christmas Eve Service Communion
December 25	Christmas Day
December 31	New Year's Eve
January 1	New Year's Day
January 5	First Sunday Blessing
January 6	Epiphany Pancakes @ Paul's
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Consistory News

Toy Drive: This years toy drive will benefit children who live in the Elanco school district from infants through 12th grade. If you would like to make a donation, suggestions will be provided shortly along with a box in the café area. All gifts must be received by December 1st.



Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, December 1st following worship. Anyone is welcome to stay and help decorate the church for the Christmas season.



Our Christmas Eve Service will begin at 7pm with special scripture readings, traditional carols, communion and candle lighting to welcome the birth of Jesus.

Our very own bell choir will add to the special evening with one or two carols of their own.



Please plan on attending and invite your family and friends, and tell your neighbors to join us as we celebrate the joy of Christmas!

Christmas Caroling is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th at 6:30pm. Come and join us for a fun night of caroling through the neighborhood on a wagon singing holiday carols. At the end of the evening we will enjoy some cookies and hot chocolate in the fellowship hall.



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 22nd; 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 Shoher 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 recent prayer concerns.

Clint, Ed, Isaac, Jake, Jasmine, Kristy, Marian, Mike, Pat, Pete, Phyllis, Sandra, Ed and his family, Jared & his family, Julie's daughter and husband, Sam's family, for rain, for all our Firefighters, and prayers of thanksgiving for all our blessings.



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 Shoher | Nancy Caffrey-Schafer |
| Steve Renninger | Chris Storms |
| Phil Shoher | 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
717-209-0509

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

Pastoral Visits or Emergencies



If anyone is in need of pastoral assistance please contact Phil Shoher anytime via text or call at 610-780-3915 or email philipshoher@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 needs requested for the food bank in Terre Hill.

- Juice
- Canned Pineapples
- Baked Beans

Below is a list of everyday needs the Grace House ladies could use.

- Toilet paper
- 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

- 6 Natalie Shober
Bob Wenrich
- 15 Jill Shober Hilt
- 21 Chase Burkholder
- 24 Marco Shober

Anniversaries



None this month

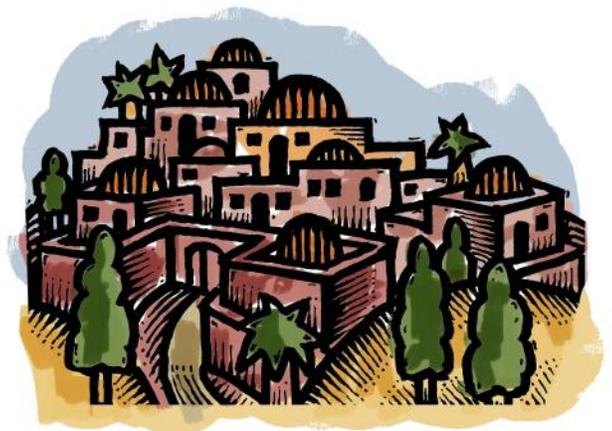


Bible Quiz



Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

- A. Theophilus
- B. Herod Antipas
- C. Pontius Pilate
- D. Quirinius



Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for October 2024

Checking & MM Accounts

Beginning Balance	\$98,087.08
+ Receipts	8,002.50
- Disbursements	12,262.18
Ending Balance	\$ 93,827.40

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

October's offering only total was \$6,020.00.

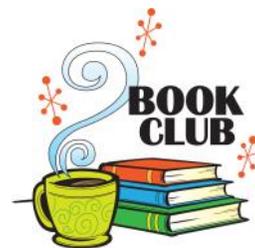


Literary Ladies Bookclub

St. Paul's Ladies Literary Bookclub meets the last Monday of each month.

The meeting is held on zoom and begins at 6:30 PM.

If you're interested in joining contact Gerri at 717-575-1720.



Bible Study Update

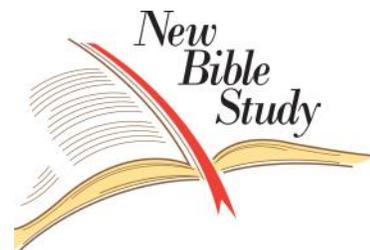
In November the Ladies Bible Study started a new series, *Jesus and Women In the First Century and*

Now, by Kristi McLelland (<https://www.lifeway.com/en/contributors/kristi-mccllland>)

This series includes a short video followed by a lesson and discussion. If you are interested in joining this study, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

The men will be starting a new series this month, *"Twelve Voices for Truth"* covering each of the 12 minor prophets from the Old Testament. They meet in the fellowship hall area.

Both groups gather on the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Anyone is welcome. If interested or you have any questions please see Gerri or Phil Shober.



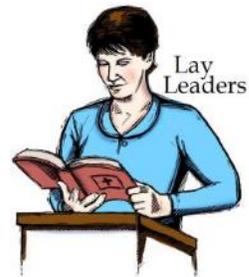
Online Worship: We are holding worship services in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUzTE3jCqaDyG2WIUzaX9w/live>



Monthly Volunteers



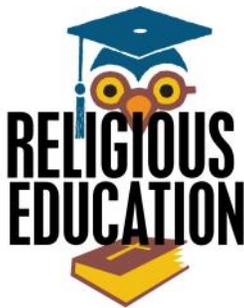
December 1	Sara Renninger
December 8	Gerri Shober
December 15	Judy Enck
December 22	Mary Renninger
December 24	Dee Sprecher **
December 29	Cheryl Borja

December 1	First Sunday Blessing
December 8	Lynda Cooper
December 15	Charlie Storms
December 22	Tim Lutz
December 29	Grace Shober

January 5	Sara Renninger
January 12	Gerri Shober
January 19	Judy Enck
January 26	Mary Renninger

January 5	Gerri Shober
January 12	Barry Gehman
January 19	Mary Renninger
January 26	Sharon Blechschmidt

** Indicates communion



December 1	FSB—no class
December 8	Gerri Shober
December 15	Children's Storytime –Grace
December 22	Jane Hoshour
December 29	Cheryl Borja

Month of December	Laura-Jeanne Iacono
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January 5	FSB—no class
January 12	Gerri Shober
January 19	Children's Storytime –Grace
January 26	Jane Hoshour

Month of January	Laura-Jeanne Iacono
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Sponsors



December 1	open
December 8	open
December 15	open
December 22	open
December 24	open
December 29	open
January 5	open
January 12	open
January 19	open
January 26	open

Christian Symbol



ADVENT COLORS — One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child.

Altar Flowers

A flower chart for 2024 is posted. If you are interested in sponsoring flowers on a particular Sunday, please sign up.



Forms are available next to the chart to fill out your information. We are no longer ordering real flowers due to the cost. If you prefer real flowers you must order them yourself, otherwise we will use the artificial flowers we have.

Please place the completed form in the church office a week before your selected date. Thank you.

St Paul's UCC *Celebrate*

A publication of St. Paul's UCC
133 Church St., P.O. Box 177
Bowmansville, Pa. 17507
Phone & Fax 717-445-6256
office@stpaulsuccchurch.org
www.stpaulsuccchurch.org



Editor:
Deidre Sprecher
dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org

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.

2024

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Advent 1st Sunday Blessing 10:30 Hanging the greens Handbell Practice	2 Pancakes @ Paul's	3 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	4 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	5	6	7
8 Worship 10:30	9	10 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	11 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm Men's & Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm	12 Choir Practice 7pm	13	14 Christmas Caroling Hayride 6:30
15 Worship 10:30 Handbell Practice	16	17 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	18 Piano lessons 5:30-6:30 pm	19	20	21 First Day of Winter
22 Worship 10:30 Xmas Fund Offering Fellowship Hall Reserved	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm Communion	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:30	30 Book Club 6:30	31 New Year's Eve				