



Celebrate St. Paul's!



139 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 21, Number 1
January 2025

What's Inside?

Pancakes @ Paul's

Operation Shoebox

Caroling Update

Next Basket Bingo

Pantry Needs



SOMETHING NEW

Does anyone remember the Y2K hysteria from 25 years ago?

“Y2K” stood for “Year 2000”, and as the new millennium approached, some people (especially, it seemed, in the government and media!) were pushing the panic button that the world’s computer systems would crash when the new year kicked in, taking our power grids, traffic controls, and civilization as we knew it crashing down with them!

But of course, nothing happened. It was much ado about nothing.

Now, this is not to suggest that you shouldn’t be aware, and prepared (be vigilant!). But there can at times be a tendency towards fear and drama and overreaction. Often times, it is all very self serving (a lot of money was made on “Y2K Compliance”!).

As we approach this new year of 2025, there will be changes, many things will be new. I’m sure some will be good and maybe some not so good....it remains to be seen and honestly debated. But let’s approach it with open minds and heavenly wisdom. We are not meant to be afraid, or to be filled with anxiety....the Bible is repeatedly clear about that. And we know that in most cases, fear— is a liar.

Have a happy, healthy, loving New Year.

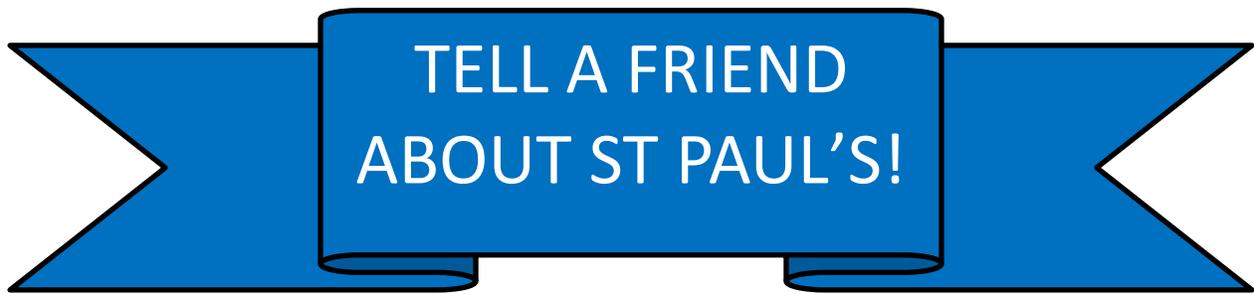
Phil

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7



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.



“First Sunday Blessing”

January 5th

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
January 6th***



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

Giving Your Best

Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ’s tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone , Newsletter Newsletter.com



Looking Ahead

January 1	New Year's Day
January 5	First Sunday Blessing
January 6	Epiphany Pancakes @ Paul's
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 3	Pancakes @ Paul's
February 15	Basket Bingo
February 17	President's Day

Consistory News

Operation Shoebox Update

In December, Cindy Hoffer and Sue Kuznier made the mission trip to North Carolina to help with inspecting and preparing the shoeboxes donated for shipping to children all over the world in time for Christmas.

Thank you to Cindy and Sue, and everyone who filled a shoebox. It is through missions like these we are all able to contribute to reach millions of children around the world.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas caroling on the hay wagon through the neighborhood.



A great time was had by all and the hot chocolate and cookies afterwards were a special treat to enjoy after a chilly evening.

Basket Bingo Is Back!

February 15th at 2pm is our annual basket bingo fundraiser. We are asking for donations of themed baskets for the bingo prizes. They can be dropped off anytime at the church office. If you would like to make baked goods or any hot food, please see Gerri, Tim or Dee.

Seating is limited; mark your calendars and come early!

BASKET BINGO

AT ST PAUL'S UCC

FEBRUARY 15 2PM
DOORS OPEN 1PM

TICKET PRICE \$40
40 THEMED BASKETS TO PLAY FOR

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE COME EARLY

SNOW DATE FEBRUARY 16

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 717-445-6256
133 CHURCH ST BOWMANSVILLE PA 17507
www.stpaulsucchurch.org



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.

Caelen, Dottie, Frank, Glenn, Isaac, Jordan, Marsha, Mary, MaryAnn, Marian, Tammy, Weston, the Cooper family, Margie's family, the Martin family, the VanSant family, and the Wenrich 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 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 Mandarin Oranges
Ketchup

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.

Updated Needs

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays



January

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

Anniversaries



None this month



Bible Quiz



When 12-year-old Jesus stayed at the Jerusalem temple as Joseph and Mary started traveling home, after how many days did his parents find him?

- A. 1 day
- B. 2 days
- C. 3 days
- D. 7 days



Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for
November 2024

Checking & MM Accounts

Beginning Balance	\$93,827.40
+ Receipts	12,059.65
- Disbursements	4,697.48
Ending Balance	\$101,189.57

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

November's offering only total was \$9,077.83.

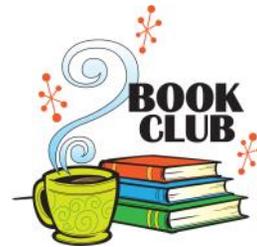


Literary Ladies Bookclub

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

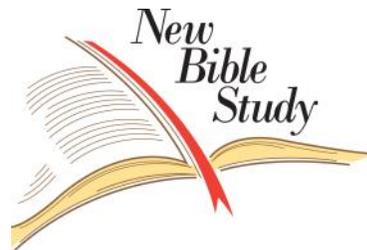
The Ladies started a new
series, *Jesus and Women
In the First Century and
Now*, by Kristi McLelland

(<https://www.lifeway.com/en/contributors/kristi-mclelland>)

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 also started a new series titled, "*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.



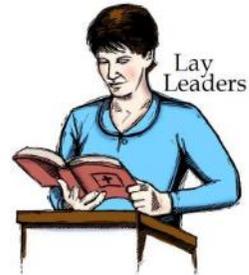
Online Worship: We are holding worship services in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

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



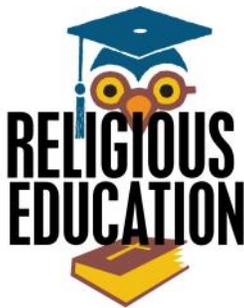
January 5 Sara Renninger
 January 12 Gerri Shober
 January 19 Judy Enck
 January 26 Mary Renninger

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

February 2 Dee Sprecher
 February 9 Cheryl Borja
 February 16 Sara Renninger
 February 23 Gerri Shober

February 2 Kieran Connelly
 February 9 Lynda Cooper
 February 16 Charlie Storms
 February 23 Tim Lutz

** Indicates communion



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

February 2 FSB—no class
 February 9 Cheryl Borja
 February 16 Children's Storytime –Grace
 February 23 Gerri Shober

Month of February Laura-Jeanne Iacono

Sponsors



January 5	open
January 12	open
January 19	open
January 26	open
February 2	open
February 9	open
February 16	open
February 23	open

Christian Symbol



NOAH'S ARK — The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the “Great Flood” in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God’s judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: “And baptism, which [God’s rescue of Noah and his family] pre-figured, now saves you ...” (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV).

Altar Flowers

If you are interested in sponsoring flowers on a particular Sunday, please see Dee Sprecher.



Forms are available in the church office for you to fill in your dedication information at least one week prior to the Sunday you would like to have it included.

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.

Thank you.

St Paul’s UCC *Celebrate*

A publication of St. Paul’s UCC
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Bowmansville, Pa. 17507
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www.stpaulsuccchurch.org



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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.

2025

JANUARY

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