



Celebrate St. Paul's!



140 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 22, Number 1
January 2026

What's Inside?

Pancakes at Paul's

Faith in Action

Giving Tree
Update

Book of the Month

New Men's Bible
Study



"STANDING FIRM"

As I write this, it is incredibly windy outside! When I walked out earlier, I noticed that a tree in our pasture had blown over—uprooted! I was surprised but I thought, well, it didn't really matter....I would just cut it up and burn it (eventually). No harm.

But then, I turned and looked at the 50 foot tall oak tree standing 25 feet from the front of my house—that one matters a lot!! I need that beautiful tree to stand firm in the wind, the rain, the snow....all of it.

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 7 verse 9, the Lord tells us this through the prophet; "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all". And then, only a few verses later, the prophet declares this: "The Lord will give you a sign—the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel “.

A new year is dawning! And it will surely be filled with blessings and joys, and also the challenges of life. And like the oak tree in my front yard, God needs us to stand firm in our faith! Firm, against the headwinds of this world. And he did not leave us to fend for ourselves....he sent his son, Jesus, to be the solid ground on which we stand.

Have a wonderful 2026!

Phil

“Truly he is my rock, my salvation,
and my fortress. I will not be shaken!”

Psalm 62:6



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 4th

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

Everyone is welcome and bring a friend!

“Pancakes at Paul’s”

***FREE Community Breakfast
at St. Paul’s UCC Church
January 5th***



1st Monday of every month 6-9am

Pancakes Sausage Coffee Juice Toast & Homemade Jelly

St. Paul’s UCC Fellowship Hall

133 Church Street, Bowmansville, Pa. 17507

more info call 717-445-6256

Faith In Action

A Christian is someone who makes it easier for others to believe in God — not through perfection, but through kindness, grace and love in everyday life. When people see Christ’s compassion in us, they’re drawn closer to Him.



NewsletterNewsletter.com

Looking Ahead

January 1	New Year's Day
January 6	Epiphany
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 16	President's Day
February 18	Ash Wednesday
February 22	First Sunday in Lent

Consistory News

“Adopt A Child” Update

We received the names of children for families currently being served by Good Samaritan Services in Ephrata for the purpose of purchasing Christmas gifts specifically for them. We were able to provide several gifts to ten different families for Christmas. Thank you to everyone for your support.



A Consistory Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 11, 2026. If you are unable to attend please see Charlie Storms.



Church Library; Book of the Month



This month's featured book is *“Celebration of Discipline”* by Richard J. Foster.

A quote from this book is as follows "God intends the Disciplines of the spiritual life to be for ordinary human beings: people who have jobs, who care for children, who wash dishes and mow lawns. In fact, the Disciplines are best exercised in the midst of our relationships with our husband or wife, our brothers and sisters, and our friends and neighbors."

This book studies Inward, Outward and Corporate Disciplines. Reading this book is like discovering a trunk full of treasure. I highly recommend it.

Jane Hoshour.

A Purposeful New Year

The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.



The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

— C. Neil Strait

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 recent prayer concerns.

Barb, Brenden, Cindy, Chris's mom, Emily & her father, Grace, Gina's family, Jeff, Marcia, Marian, Mary, Rodney, Roy & Liz, Sir, Tripp, everyone affected by the shooting at Brown University and in Australia.

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
Zerbe Sisters
Nursing Center
2499 Zerbe Road
Room 10
Narvon, Pa. 17555

Alta Hoshour
Ephrata Manor
99 Bethany Rd
Room# 117
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 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 needs requested for the food bank in Terre Hill.

Unscented Laundry Detergent

Any donations can be placed on the table by the side door entrance.

Thank you for your continued support.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

January

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



Anniversaries



Laura-Jeanne & Ryan Buck 1 year on 1/11/2025



Bible Quiz



Fill in the blank to complete this verse from 2 Corinthians: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new _____. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

- A. Creation
- B. Beginning
- C. Season
- D. Covenant



Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for
November 2025

Checking & MM Accounts

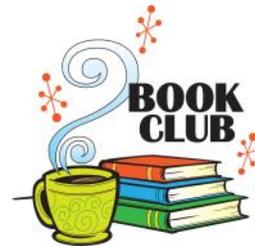
Beginning Balance	\$123,670.74
+ Receipts	9,279.17
- Disbursements	4,655.52
Ending Balance	\$128,294.39

November's offering only total was \$5,910.00.



Literary Ladies Bookclub

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

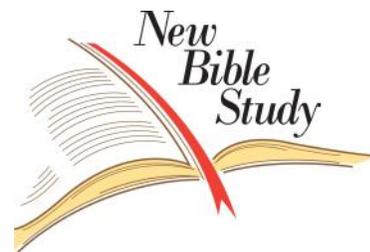


The meeting is held on zoom and begins at 6:30 PM.

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

Bible Study Update

The Ladies have begun a
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. They meet in the café area.

The men will be starting a new series titled, "*Angels Standing Guard*". This study explores what the Bible really says about angels, including their service to God and their ministry to people.

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.

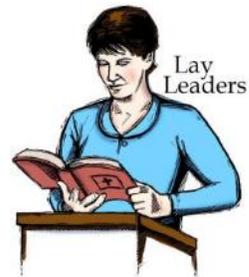
Online Worship: We are holding worship services in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

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



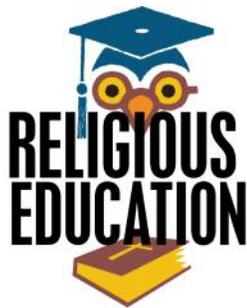
January 4 Dee Sprecher
 January 11 Cheryl Borja
 January 18 Sara Renninger
 January 25 Gerri Shober

January 4 Mary Renninger
 January 11 Sharon Blechschmidt
 January 18 Kieran Connelly
 January 25 Lynda Cooper

February 1 Judy Enck
 February 8 Mary Renninger
 February 15 Dee Sprecher **
 February 22 Cheryl Borja

February 1 Charlie Storms
 February 8 Tim Lutz
 February 15 Grace Shober
 February 22 Gerri Shober

** Indicates communion



January 4 FSB—no class
 January 11 Jane Hoshour
 January 18 Children's Storytime –Grace
 January 25 Cheryl Borja

Nursery available as needed

February 1 FSB—no class
 February 8 Gerri Shober
 February 15 Children's Storytime –Grace
 February 22 Jane Hoshour

Sponsors



January 4	open
January 11	open
January 18	open
January 25	open
February 1	open
February 8	open
February 15	open
February 22	open

Christian Symbol

SHIP — The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship.

While the Old Testament tells of Noah's ark preserving righteous people during the flood, the New Testament recounts Jesus calming the storm that battered the disciples' fishing boat. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship). Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave — Latin for ship.



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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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.

JANUARY 2026

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