



# ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# THE GOOD NEWS

*Sharing Life's Journey by Building Our Relationships with Jesus and Each Other*

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## FROM THE PASTOR

Welcome to the church seasons of Advent and Christmas!!! This year during Advent at St. Paul's as we gather for Sunday morning worship and engage in Bible Study on a Wednesday afternoon - we will reflect on the mystery, surprise, and earthshaking good news of the Incarnation – the Word become Flesh – God coming to us in Jesus Christ – fully human and fully divine.

As the world's year ends - the Christian year begins – four weeks to take time, mark time, and make time - differently from the way the world keeps time. The Advent scriptures that come before us each Sunday and each Wednesday afternoon – are an answer to a number of New Year questions: Are we ending or beginning? Are our human efforts the only help in history? Have we come to the end of the road, or is something new afoot? Is it the same old thing, or a fresh start? Are we stuck, abandoned to our own devices? Or is it possible that God might show up and disrupt, intervene, shake up, and take time for us?

It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our own devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a Creator who is not distant from our time. We need a God that not only cares about us, but who is also willing to show up among us, and do something with us, here, now.

Good news! Advent, marking the church's New Year, says, in a number of different ways, that's just the sort of God we've got. As we journey through the church season of Advent focusing on some of the Gospel readings chosen for Advent, you are invited to meditate upon the God who has, in the advent of the Babe of Bethlehem, Mighty Savior, Light of the World, taken time for us! Jesus's name means "God saves," which is a Bible way of saying that Almighty God has turned toward us. God is not confined in heaven. God stoops toward us, intervening, showing up when we least expect and in ways that surprise. All in God's good time. Advent is God taking time *from* us by making time *for* us.

This Advent season will be a rich and engaging exploration of God's good news: Heaven and Earth meet in The One who has come and will come again – The One whose birth we will celebrate in the season of Christmas! Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way.

Advent and Christmas Blessings, *Pastor Trudy*

# DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.

Worship is held at 10:15am in the sanctuary.

Kingdom Kids is available for preschool and elementary-aged children during worship.



**Lay Liturgist:** Rick Moyer

## December 1 | 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Hanging of the Greens Worship Service;  
Tree Decorating Party in Fretz Hall following worship  
Advent Candle – HOPE*

## December 8 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Advent Candle - PEACE  
Scripture: Mark 1:1-8*

## December 15 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Advent Candle - JOY  
Scripture: John 1:6-8, 19-28*

## December 22 | 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Advent Candle – LOVE  
UCC Special Mission Offering: Christmas Fund Offering  
Scripture: Luke 1:26-55*

## December 24 | Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7pm

*Lighting of the CHRIST candle  
Lessons and Carols; Musical selections; Special readings*

## December 29 | 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day

*NO KINGDOM KIDS  
Pastor Trudy and Dir. of Christian Ed. Vacation Sunday  
Scripture: Luke 2:41-52*

Worship and reflection resources: Heaven and Earth Copyright © 2023 Abingdon Press, [www.abingdonpress.com](http://www.abingdonpress.com).

## SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### Middle & High Schoolers | Sundays | 9:00am

Facilitated by Jeremiah Link. Meets in the Parlor.

### Men's Group | Sundays | 9:00am

Meets in Fellowship Hall.

### Kingdom Kids | Sundays | During 10:15am Worship

Preschool and Elementary-aged kids are dismissed after Children's Chat during worship to the Nursery where they will learn a Bible lesson and play. Facilitated by Jeremiah Link.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025

**January 5, 2025:** Epiphany Sunday, including the Sacrament of Holy Communion

**January 12, 2025:** Installation of 2025 Church Leaders

**Week of November 12, 2024****From the Conference Moderator:**

Greetings, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference!

The Fall meeting on Saturday at the beautiful Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Tuckerton, included a packed sanctuary, meaningful opening worship led by Rev. Linda Kozlowski, and a full agenda — many thanks to Rev. Kozlowski and Good Shepherd Church for their warm hospitality and inviting spirit.

After worship, the Pastors, Lay Leaders, and guests entered the business portion of the meeting with the Conference Consistory and Conference Minister, Rev. Bill Worley, after Vice-Moderator Mr. Robert Ames, brought us the excellent news of quorum. With oversight from our Parliamentarian, Mr. Harry Rosenthal, Rev. Worley led us into the conversation around the Keystone Merger motion, which passed with all four conferences offering 90% or better 'yes' votes. We are grateful to our Siblings in Christ, who shared their thoughts on the Keystone Conference Merger, asked questions, and moved us forward to a time of voting that was complimentary to the work of the Keystone Working Group, the process, and the dedication and leadership of the four Pennsylvania Conference Ministers. Conference Consistory collected and tallied the votes under the supervision of Parliamentarian Mr. Rosenthal. We finished our vote a little early as we waited for the four Conference Zoom call; joy could be heard by all in the sanctuary as voices joined together in song. Cheers erupted in the Good Shepherd's pews when the four PA Conference Ministers expressed their results through the Zoom call a little after noon!

Conference Minister Rev. Worley took a moment to recognize and honor the significant anniversaries of our conference churches. Our churches, which have received 5 for 5 status, were also highlighted. Following these acknowledgments, Rev. Worley engaged with Associate Conference Ministers Rev. Kevin McLemore and Rev. Cean James, a presentation of clergy years of service honoring 5 - 70-year ordination anniversaries. The community celebrated with these pastors, showing our deep appreciation and respect for their dedicated service. We honored Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel with a plaque for her 65 years and Rev. Ed Gobrecht for his 60 years, who both kindly shared a few words.

After a presentation by our Treasurer, Rev. Ken McDowell, who shared the 2024 budget as it stands, followed by OCWM contributions, and presented a clear proposed 2025 budget, including a 3% increase for our incredible Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Staff, those gathered voted to pass the 2025 deficit budget. We are grateful for the work of Ms. Caroline Dunleavy and the Generosity Missions Team, and we are ahead in our OCWM giving for the year.

To those who gathered online, we thank you for your participation in the voting and discussion processes. Blessed by the expertise of the Technical Team of Rev. Folk and Rev. Jackson, you were a valued part of this historical PSE Conference meeting.

Thanks be to God for the presence of the Holy as we gathered, caught up with old friends and made some new acquaintances. Blessed be the work of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Staff, Consistory, Keystone Working Group, and all the folks engaged in transition conversations in the year ahead. God bless the word and work of our church's, pastors, staff, and lay leadership among our conference. God is good All the time, and all the time, God is Good.

God Bless you, *Rev. Melissa A. Burkhart*, PSEC Moderator

**DECEMBER 1**  
**CHRISTMAS TREE  
DECORATING  
PARTY**



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**  
**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

# Caroling



Everyone is invited to stay after worship and the congregational meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup> to go Christmas caroling around Sellersville and Perkasie. Our caroling route will include visits with some well-loved members. We'll conclude back at St. Paul's for some cookies and hot cocoa. It's bound to be a fun time! Sign up in the Narthex by December 8<sup>th</sup> if you'd like to attend.



# Holiday Brunch!

*after worship*  
**December 22**





Collection: Sunday, December 22



*Order your poinsettias by filling out the form below or sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please write your name(s) as you would like it printed in the bulletin. Cost is \$9.00 each for a beautiful flowering plant. Please pay Robin Frank directly by December 8<sup>th</sup>. If paying by check, make check payable to Robin Frank.*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_

“To the Glory of God”

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_



# Bethany Children's Home

## Christmas Wish List

**Thank you for helping create new, positive memories in our youth's lives!**

**Bethany youth are 10-21 years of age. We kindly ask that all items are new and unwrapped.**

**We appreciate age-appropriate gifts with the consideration of parental warnings, modesty and safety.**

### **Clothing - various adult sizes S-XXL**

bath robes: young women and men • white t-shirts, esp. small and medium • underwear S-XXL • men's athletic shorts • bras • sports bras • gloves • pajamas • low-cut socks •

### **Personal Care/Cottage Needs**

unisex comforters • pillows • waterproof mattress covers Twin XL • bed in a bag • bath towels • battery-operated alarm clocks • bagless vacuums • air fryers • baking sheets and pans • deodorant • conditioner • feminine hygiene products • toothbrush covers

### **Recreation**

indoor basketballs 29.5 inch • Lego sets: classic cars, super heroes, Star Wars • Nerf guns and ammo • Roller blades or skates sizes 4-13 • fishing rods/reels • adult beach volleyballs • footballs • TRX workout bands • badminton racquets and birdies • Olympic weightlifting bar • weights for Olympic bar • yoga blocks • hand wraps or MMA gloves • yoga mats • vacuum cleaner • remote control cars

### **Music Education**

earbud headphones • mp3 players • drum sticks • clarinet reeds (strength 2.5 and 3) • acoustic guitar strings • ukulele strings • guitar picks • hand percussion instruments • area rug • bean bag chairs • Menchey Music gift cards • iTunes gift cards • boomwhackers • hand drums

### **Art Studio**

wrapped canvases • canvas boards • acrylic paint • premixed acrylic pouring paint • Gesso (White, Black, & Clear) • clear semi-gloss finish spray paint • spray paint • fabric paint • paint pens • tabletop easels • paintbrushes • washi tape • scratch art paper • calligraphy pens and inks • Beads including numbers/letters • Stabilo pencils • rubber stamps & ink pads • Diamond Art kits • jewelry making supplies • beads • bean bag chair

### **Gift Cards**

Dick's Sporting Goods, Ulta, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Lowes, Home Depot, Michaels, Wal-Mart, Target, McDonald's, Boyer's and Redner's Markets, Turkey Hill, Giant, Domino's Pizza, Wawa, Netflix, Game Stop

**Questions regarding gifts? Please call Dana Hoffman at 610-589-6810.**

Financial Gifts may also be made to support youth needs throughout the year at [bethanyhome.org](http://bethanyhome.org).

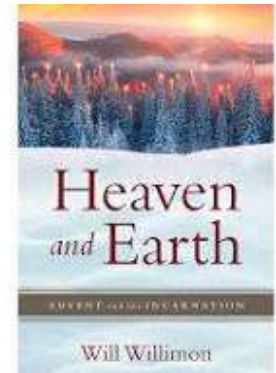
*The official registration and financial information of Bethany Home Inc. and Bethany Children's Home, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999.*

*Registration does not imply endorsement.*

**Donations can be dropped off in the Narthex at St. Paul's on December 1 and 8  
See Rick or Nancy Moyer with any questions**

## BIBLE STUDY

In *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, Will Willimon introduces us to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything! Will Willimon is a preacher and teacher of preachers. He is a united Methodist bishop (retired) and serves as Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Duke Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina. For twenty years he was Dean of the Chapel at Duke University.



The Advent Bible Study begins Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall; we will continue to meet each Wednesday in Advent (December 11<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>). The study time on December 18<sup>th</sup> will be two hours as we will cover Chapters 3 and 4 since we will not meet on Christmas Day! If you'd like to participate in the Wednesday afternoon Bible Study, please email Pastor Trudy at [pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net). The cost of the book is \$14.00. If you can't attend the in-person Bible study, don't hesitate to purchase the book on your own – as the Bible study scriptures connect with the scriptures we will be hearing and reflecting upon in Sunday morning worship throughout the church season of Advent.



## THE LIVING MUSEUM

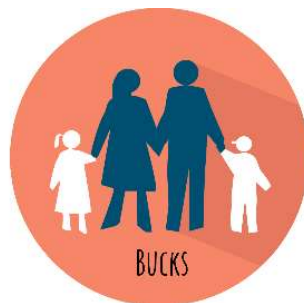
As we approach the Christmas Season here at St. Paul's, look for a new display located in the Museum behind Fretz Hall. In the next weeks, the Music Ministry will be featured with photos and history. Please take some time and check it out.

## FOSTERING HOPE BUCKS

**Many thanks to all who donated diapers and baby wipes last month! Your generosity is appreciated.**

Fostering Hope has 3 initiatives to support families and children in foster care:

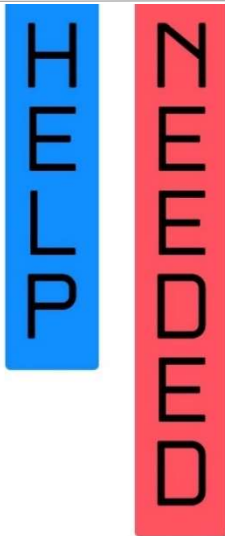
1. Bags of Hope
2. Dignity Duffles
3. Foster Care Closet



**Bags of Hope** are a simple way to comfort a child entering foster care and offer quick emergency items to foster families for those last-minute calls and placements. Drawstring backpacks are filled with basic items a family and child can use such as toiletries, nightlights, activity books, diapers, wipes, etc. Let's see if St. Paul's can help replenish the shelves in the Foster Closet with the following items:

- Toddler Body Wash for sensitive skin, such as Aveeno or Hello Bello
- Body Lotion for sensitive skin
- Kids Toothbrushes
- Toddler Toothbrushes
- Infant Nail Clippers
- Diaper Cream
- Chapstick





**ARE YOU ABLE TO HELP  
WITH BASIC CUSTODIAL  
DUTIES WHILE WE SEEK TO  
HIRE A CUSTODIAN?**

**MORE INFORMATION  
AND SIGN UP SHEET  
LOCATED IN FRETZ HALL**

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

12/1 – Dennis Hauptert

12/2 – Cindy Fosbenner

Connor Murray

Alayna Milkowich

Richard Wilhelm

12/7 – Lindsay Brooks

Lukas Frank

12/10 – Natalie Schmidt

12/11 – Nikolas Frank

12/12 – Jean Gehman

12/13 – Carol Kuhn

Rebecca Schmidt

12/14 – John Bibic

12/19 – Barry Kuhn

Chris Ziegenfuss

12/26 – Mike Bibic

12/28 – Jacob Derstine

12/30 – Chris Fosbenner

### **CELEBRATING 40+ YEARS OF MARRIAGE**

Pastor Trudy and Kevin Irving – December 6, 1980

Mr. and Mrs. John Moyer – December 20, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bibic – December 22, 1978

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24  
7:00PM**



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:**

December 15, 2024

**SECRETARY VACATION DAYS:**

December 24, 2024 – January 1, 2025

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE:**

December 16, 2024

**PASTOR VACATION DAYS:**

December 25, 2024 – January 3, 2025

**ENDOWMENT**

Cindy Bibic  
Robin Frank  
Debbie Koehler  
Rick Moyer  
Terry Weikel  
Chris Ziegenfuss

**CONSISTORY**

Paul Koehler, *President*  
Marie Runkle, *Vice President*  
Arlene Peters, *Secretary*  
Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*  
Brandon Barndt  
Chris Fosbenner  
Scott Huff  
Debbie Koehler  
Rick Moyer  
Jocelyn Ziegenfuss  
Nancy Ziegenfuss

**CEMETARY TRUSTEES**

Alex Potoczny  
Terry Weikel  
Jay Wenger

**CEMETARY CONTACT**

Carol Nase: 267-374-9045

*Consistory minutes are now available in the Narthex*

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Trudy Irving**, Pastor

*Office Hours:* Tuesday 9:00am – 12:00pm  
*Off:* Friday

[pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net)  
267-733-4153

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**Cindy Bibic**, Financial Secretary

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**Christopher Ziegenfuss**, Choir Director

[chris@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:chris@stpaulsucc.net)

**Peter Ziegenfuss**, Handbell Choir Director

[peter@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:peter@stpaulsucc.net)



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