

DECEMBER 2023

 www.stpaulsucc.net  [@stpaulssellersville](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulssellersville)  [St. Paul's United Church of Christ](https://www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.United.Church.of.Christ)

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOOD NEWS

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

Christmas at St. Paul's

- DEC 3 HANGING OF THE GREENS WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15AM
& TREE DECORATING & LUNCHEON
- DEC 9 SELLERSVILLE WINTERFEST 4:00 - 7:00PM
- LIVE MUSIC & FESTIVE ACTIVITIES AT ST. PAUL'S
- DEC 10 ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15AM
- DEC 16 A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS SHOW 2:00PM
- DEC 17 ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15AM
& FAMILY HOLIDAY BRUNCH
- DEC 24 ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15AM
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00PM
- DEC 31 HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15AM

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Prepare! Prepare for the coming celebration of our Savior's birth! Prepare! At St. Paul's United Church of Christ we will prepare in many ways for the coming celebration of our Savior's birth. Advent – the time in which we prepare – the time of waiting and anticipation - will be filled with special opportunities for the participation of our church family, friends, and neighbors of all ages!!

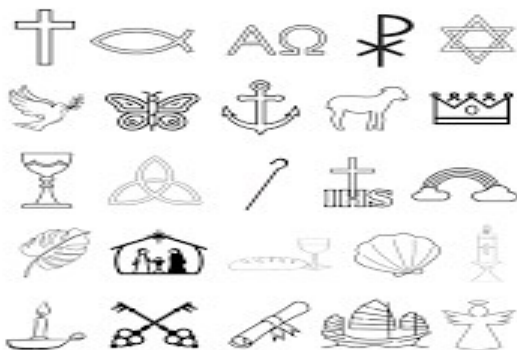
After visiting Bethlehem for the seventh time in February of 1998, Rev. Thomas Pilgrim put together the worship series, *"They Came Together in Bethlehem."* Since our worship services are now live-streamed, I reached out to Pastor Tom and he graciously provided written copyright permission for our use of his timeless resource created for the Advent/Christmas season. In the Preface to the series, Pastor Tom writes: "Each time I go there I am impressed by the fact that people from all over the world come together in Bethlehem. As I thought about this on one of my trips there, I realized it is not just people who come together in Bethlehem. Many things come together in Bethlehem. The great purposes of God come together in Bethlehem. As we sing, the hopes and fears of all the years come together in Bethlehem. And for all of us, life comes together in Bethlehem because of what happened there on a cold, dark night when a star lit up the sky and God's love warmed the hearts of a few people who came together in Bethlehem."

As our Hanging of the Greens service concludes on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3rd, we will be introduced in detail to our Advent/Christmas season theme, *"They Came Together in Bethlehem."* We will also meet the first of *The Beholders*, The Prophet; we will hear from a different *Beholder*, at the conclusion of every worship service throughout Advent and Christmas. Our *Kingdom Kids* will assist in the lighting of our Advent Candles throughout the season of Advent; and together with *Kingdom Kids* we will learn about the meaning and significance of The Chrismons.

If you pay attention as you explore the pages of this newsletter, you will find those many and varied opportunities – worship, activities, special events – all to prepare us for the celebration of our Savior's birth. May we come together at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in this time of waiting and anticipation – because in our waiting for the celebration of our Savior's birth – Advent also reminds us that we await our Savior's Second Coming too! Prepare!

Advent & Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Trudy

Examples of Chrismons



What is a Chrismon?

A *Chrismon* is really a Christ-monogram. It is a symbol which teaches us something about Jesus Christ. On each of the Sundays during the Advent and Christmas seasons we will be learning more about the Chrismons and their meaning and significance.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel. See the website for more information.
Worship is held at 10:15am in the sanctuary. Kingdom Kids is available for children during worship.

Theme: They Came Together In Bethlehem

December Liturgist: Rick Moyer

Kingdom Kids will be lighting Advent Candles each week

December 3, 2023 | 1st Sunday of Advent – Hope

*Hanging of the Greens Worship Service
Tree decorating and luncheon after worship*

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-5; John 1:1-14

December 10, 2023 | 2nd Sunday of Advent – Peace

Congregational meeting and caroling after worship

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

December 17, 2023 | 3rd Sunday of Advent – Joy

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 2:1-5

December 24, 2023 | 4th Sunday of Advent – Love

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-6; Luke 2:6-14

December 24, 2023 | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Christ

A variety of music, lessons and carols, and the lighting of candles

December 31, 2023 | 1st Sunday After Christmas

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 9:7; Matthew 2:1-12

Worship and Reflection resources: Portions of this worship service were produced using content from CSS Publishing Company, Inc. CSS Publishing Company hereby grants permission to use Title, Copyright Year © CSS Publishing Company, Inc. Used by permission; Seasons of the Spirit TM SeasonsFusion Advent*Christmas*Epiphany 2022-2023, 2022 Copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2022; Hymns for the Family of God; New Century Hymnal.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Speak with Brenda Clark if you'd like to sponsor altar flowers for any of the following dates:

December: 3, 10, 31

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024:

January Lay Liturgist: Marty Milkowich

January 7, 2024: The Baptism of Christ & *Installation of the 2024 Consistory and church leaders*



KINGDOM KIDS
ST. PAUL'S CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Under the leadership of Kate Clark, kids ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to the nursery after Children's Chat to learn, play, and craft together.

In order to maintain this program, according to our Safe Church Policy we need a second volunteer each Sunday. These volunteers need valid clearances on file with St. Paul's for safety and security purposes. Please consider serving the families in our church by volunteering. There is a sign-up sheet located in the Narthex. Email Brianna if you need assistance obtaining your clearances.



Everyone is invited to stay after worship and the congregational meeting for a light lunch followed by caroling around Sellersville and Perkasie. Our caroling route will cover stops at some well-loved members' homes. We'll conclude back at St. Paul's for cookies and hot cocoa. Sign up in the Narthex by **December 3**.



*Please fill out the form below
as you would like it printed in the bulletin.*

Your Name: _____

In Memory of:

Quantity: _____

In Honor of:

Quantity: _____

"To the Glory of God"

Quantity: _____





Sellersville Winterfest
saturday; december 9 | 4:00 - 7:00pm
LIVE BRASS & PIANO MUSIC - HOLIDAY PHOTO BACKDROP - SANTA'S ELVES
HOT COCOA & COOKIES - KIDS' CRAFT - FESTIVE ACTIVITIES
Sign up in the Narthex to help



A
MERRY
LITTLE CHRISTMAS
SHOW
A FESTIVE TALENT SHOW FOR ALL AGES
DECEMBER 16 | 2:00PM
FRETZ HALL - ST. PAUL'S



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/1 – Dennis Haupt

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
John Hunsberger

12/15 – Jessica Derstine

12/19 – Jay Frankenfield
Barry Kuhn
Chris Ziegenfuss

12/21 – Krista Steffy

12/26 – Mike Bibic

12/28 – Jacob Derstine

12/30 – Chris Fosbenner

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Roy and Helen Roth
2100 Cherry Blossom Lane, Apt 227
Quakertown, PA 18951

NEW BABY!

Maverick Charles Hagenbuch was born on 11/2/23. Congratulations to his parents, Breanna Barndt and Mike Hagenbuch, and older brother, Wyatt. Congratulations also go out to his grandmother, Terri Hawkins, great grandparents, Ken & Faye Gable, and Uncle Brandon, Aunt Tessa, Aunt Taylor & Aunt Faith.

MONTHLY GATHERING

Students in grades 5 through 12 are invited to join us for ReCharge on **Sunday, December 10, 6:30 – 8:30pm**. We'll be busy that night with all sorts of activities! ReCharge will not meet on our regularly scheduled Sunday in December – the last Sunday of the month – because of New Year's Eve; however, we will be back on our usual schedule in January.



SPAGHETTI DINNER

ReCharge cooked up a delicious, comforting meal on November 11. A big thank you to those who came out to eat and who brought donations for FISH. Together we were able to donate several bags of pantry items and close to \$200!



We are currently still working out of three pantries, St. Paul's UCC, Blooming Glen Mennonite Church and Souderton Brethren in Christ Church, serving a total of 250 children each week. Our pantry in the Green Room, serves 102 children every week! We serve West Rockhill Elementary, Deibler Elementary, South Middle School and Pennridge High School.

We have six different packing teams that rotate through a schedule filling the bags each week. We have four different delivery people who come each week and pick up the bins to deliver to the schools. Kevin gives his own time to break down all the cardboard and take out the trash every week!

We are still looking for donations of dry snacks to put in the bags such as Doritos, Potato Chips, Fritos, Pringles, etc. Those snacks are "extras" and very appreciated by our children. A typical weekend bag contains two breakfasts

(such as oatmeal, a protein bar, fruit, dry cereal), two lunches (such as a can of beef ravioli, Rice-A-Roni, a can of soup, crackers, tuna or chicken salad) and two snacks (such as a granola bar, fruit, peanuts, popcorn). On a weekend that includes a day off or on a longer vacation, we supply enough food to cover all the days they are not in school.

Our food buyer works diligently to stretch our dollars. She shops with a BJs card that earns us points toward food at BJs. We buy most of our food at Sam's, Walmart, and Amazon. She has been able to keep the cost of a typical weekend bag to \$8/9. But that means we are spending around \$10,125/month.

So far, we have been totally funded by local churches, service organizations and individuals. We are beginning to seek business sponsorships and corporate sponsors for our first ever fundraising event coming to Sellersville on Sunday, April 28! Look for more details in January. In the meantime, if you work at a business or know of a business that would like to get involved, please have them email rampacks2019@gmail.com



Our first dine-in Chicken Potpie Dinner since 2019 was a big success!

We did not have as many people dine in as we have had in the past, but our takeout sales made up for it. It was a beautiful Halloween weekend with many other activities going on around the community which may explain our low turnout.

The promotion of the dinner was really stepped up this year with the addition of Brianna's design and marketing skills.

However, we continue our tradition of making our own noodles with the help of many church members.

Gerry Milkowich created centerpieces for all the tables which she donated for future fall activities at St. Paul's. We had servers, waiters, and bussers as well as our greeter, Pastor Trudy, and our money takers and hostess. Many people worked behind the scenes setting up the room, putting leftover potpie in quart containers for takeout, cooking and cutting chicken, cutting vegetables, and of course cooking the potpie the day of the dinner. There was a multitude of delicious desserts donated and carefully cut and served at the dinner. The dishwashers and cleanup crew did a great job of wrapping it all up. It is truly a labor of love and fellowship!

Our profit of \$2000 will go into the checking account at St. Paul's to help with our finances at the church.

A big thank you goes out to ALL who helped make this happen.



On Monday, November 13, Growth and Hospitality hosted the first gathering of the "Perennials," a new 55+ group at St. Paul's. Nancy Moyer's brother and sister-in-law, David and Kathy Nebhut, talked about their pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year. David showed slides and shared stories and information, and Kathy shared some artifacts and a book. About 25 members and friends were treated to St. Paul's chicken pot pie, pickled cabbage and desserts.

Invite your friends to our next Perennials gathering! On February 8, 2024, Linda Kenyon, an actress and historical presenter, will present a program for us as she impersonates Eleanor Roosevelt.





Hail and well met!

I'm once again participating in Extra Life for 2023, making it my 11th year raising money for the benefit of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia!

Your donations have been extremely encouraging during my journey, and I hope you will be a part of it once again. Thank you for your support past and present! Game day is November 4th from 8 AM to 8 AM, and I hope you'll join me! Scan the QR code for details on how to donate and watch the stream. **FOR THE KIDS!**

- Nathan Gulla

**CROP
HUNGER WALK**
ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



St. Paul's had about 12 walkers and 3 rockers for the Pennridge CROP Walk. We raised over \$1,400.00 for the CROP Walk through sponsors and through the Blessing Calendars. Thank you again for your support! I will give you an update on the total raised when I hear from the CROP Walk committee.

Robin Frank, CROP Walk Coordinator



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Pennridge FISH is again collecting \$25 gift cards from WalMart and Target which they will hand out to those families with children ages 16 & under. The goal is to raise \$16,000+ in \$25 Target/WalMart gift cards or cash/check donations for the over 400 children they serve. See below.

GIVING TREE

In lieu of sponsoring a family this Christmas, St. Paul's Giving Tree will be for \$25 gift cards not only for Target & WalMart, but other places as well that FISH will be able to hand out to those in need throughout the year. The tree will be up in the Narthex on 12/3 with many different tags to choose from. Please take some time to pick several off the tree and purchase them to help FISH in their mission to assist the less fortunate this holiday season and into the new year. After you make your choices, find the corresponding number from the tag on the sheet next to

the tree, write your name and be on your way to purchase. Once you purchase them, there is no need to wrap them. Please be sure to place your gift card in an envelope or gift card holder then attach the tag to the envelope holding the gift cards or holder the gift card is in and place in the basket at the base of the tree. That's all you have to do unless you want to pick a few more!

If you are unable to purchase a gift card, I will happily purchase for you...just get the cash/check to me and I will handle the rest for you. I will deliver to FISH as I receive them but will continue to collect in the basket up till 12/24 so you have plenty of time to grab some tags and make your purchases.

Last year, I collected and delivered to FISH \$1,000 in Target/WalMart gift cards, cash & check donations. I know we will exceed that this year due to your continued generosity for this essential mission provided for those in need in our community

LUMINARIES

Support Pennridge FISH by purchasing luminaries. With a \$15 purchase, you will receive all the supplies you need for 10 luminaries, including: white paper bags, LED tea lights, and sand. Contact Brenda Clark to order by December 10.

BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME WISH LIST

St. Paul's is collecting items for Bethany Youth. The list created by the youth is located in the Narthex or you may email Brianna for a digital copy. Bethany requests that all items are new and unwrapped and they express their appreciation of age-appropriate gifts with the consideration of parental warnings, modesty, and safety. Thank for your willingness and generosity to provide a wonderful Christmas and holiday season for Bethany Youth. Collection deadline: December 10. You may drop your donations in the laundry baskets located in the Narthex.



Thank you for your generosity in donating 25 filled shoeboxes to children in need around the world through **Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child!** Pictured are our Kingdom Kids with the blessed boxes.



HOLIDAY DINNER NEEDS FOR FISH

CANNED YAMS/SWEET POTATOES

CANNED FRUIT

CRANBERRY SAUCE

APPLESAUCE

GRAVY

JEFFY CORNBREAD MIX

BOX JELLO/PUDDING

CAKE MIX + FROSTING

LOW OR OUT OF STOCK ITEMS:

BOXED MASHED POTATO FLAKES

STUFFING MIX

CANNED CORN, GREEN BEANS, CARROTS, PEAS

CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP

OTHER CREAM SOUPS

FRENCH FRIED ONIONS

TAKE DIRECTLY TO FISH:

TURKEY LARGE HAM SLICES

HAM ROASTING CHICKEN



Pennridge FISH

CURRENT NEEDS - DEC 2023

High Priority Needs

- meal helpers
- boxed pasta noodles
- salad dressing
- canned: fruit, spinach, beets, spam, pasta
- hot chocolate
- coffee
- mayonnaise
- jelly
- shelf-stable meals (ie Hormel)
- pancake mix & syrup
- paper towels
- baby wipes
- diapers (size 2, 3, 4T-6T)
- pull-ups/trainers/nighttime (size 4-7)
- bar soap
- toilet paper
- facial tissues
- detergent for clothes
- dishwashing soap

Other Needs

- canned: soup, chicken, sardines, vegetables, meat
- alfredo sauce
- shelf-stable grated cheese
- pickles
- salt & pepper
- bagged dry beans
- boxed mashed potatoes
- misc. nuts
- applesauce
- oatmeal
- spaghetti
- cooking oil
- white & brown rice
- sugar
- fresh: apples, oranges, onions, potatoes
- toothpaste
- shampoo
- razors
- toothbrushes



<https://penridgefish.org/current-needs>

ENDOWMENT REPORT

Nov. 9, 2023

Present: Aaron Clark, Neil Clark, Debbie Koehler, Pastor Trudy Irving, Rick Moyer, Chris Ziegenfuss.

WITHIN ST. PAUL'S

Income available (1/1/23 to 6/30/23)	\$6787
Funds previously authorized but not used *	<u>7429</u>
Total available	\$14,216

Requests for funding:

St. Paul's Living History Museum (Completion: tables, shelves, etc.)	\$2000
Website Photographer (remainder of total cost of project)	350
Sidewalk replacement at Parsonage (leveling after tree removal)	1100
Food and Fellowship (Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch expenses)	<u>1000</u>
Total	<u>\$4450</u>

Funds remaining for 2024 disbursement	\$9766
---------------------------------------	--------

OUTREACH

Income available (1/1/23 to 6/30/23)	\$6787
--------------------------------------	--------

Requests for funding:

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox shipping (25@\$10/per)	\$ 250
Men-O-Lan New Lodge Campaign (\$500,000 total campaign)	5000
UCC Hawaiian Wildfire Relief - Waiola UCC in Lahaina	1000
Holy Joe's Cafe (UCC / Military Chaplains Coffee Ministry)	<u>537</u>
Total	<u>\$6787</u>
Funds remaining	-0-

CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. More information regarding this offering will be shared in our worship bulletin each Sunday this month.

St. Paul's will collect Christmas Fund offerings on **December 24**. Gifts to the Christmas Fund may be made any time through secure online giving at www.christmasfund.org or there are special envelopes in the Narthex at St. Paul's.

From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. - John 1:16

THE 150 FUND

Celebrate Our Past. Invest in Our Future.
1 Chronicles 22:14

- Tower Repairs: \$263,847 – completed
- Parsonage Roof: \$22,950 – completed
- Kitchen Fire Suppression: \$15,325 – completed
- Handicapped-Accessible Entrance: \$18,900 – accessible doors installed; sidewalk leveled to the door sill

ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

ENDOWMENT

- Aaron Clark
- Neil Clark
- Robin Frank
- Debbie Koehler
- Rick Moyer
- Terry Weikel
- Chris Ziegenfuss

CONSISTORY

- Aaron Clark, *President*
- Marty Milkowich, *Vice President*
- Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*
- Karen Weikel, *Secretary*
- Brandon Barndt
- Neil Clark
- Paul Koehler
- Rick Moyer
- Arlene Peters
- Marie Runkle
- Patti Steich

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
267-733-4153

Brianna Link, Church Secretary

Office Hours: Tues/Wed/Thurs 10:30am – 1:30pm

brianna@stpaulsucc.net
215-257-7268

Nathan Gulla, Organist

nathan@stpaulsucc.net

Cindy Bibic, Financial Secretary

cindy@stpaulsucc.net

Christopher Ziegenfuss, Choir Director


chris@stpaulsucc.net

Peter Ziegenfuss, Handbell Choir Director

peter@stpaulsucc.net



December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Worship 10:15am Tree Decorating & Luncheon	Bells 7:00pm AA	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm AA	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm	Christian Ed. 6:30pm		Winterfest 4:00 – 7:00pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship – 10:15am Congregational Mtg Caroling ReCharge 6:30 – 8:00pm 	Bells 7:00pm AA	Consistory 7:00pm AA	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			A Merry Little Christmas Show 2:00pm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 10:15am Holiday Brunch	Bells 7:00pm AA	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm AA	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship 10:15am Candlelight Service 7:00pm	Christmas Day AA	AA				
31						
Worship & Holy Communion 10:15am						