



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOOD NEWS

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

Steven Says . . . Good Tidings!

We get excited about “first” Christmases: a baby’s first Christmas, two people’s first Christmas as a married couple, even a pet’s first Christmas. Well, I’m excited about my first Advent and Christmas season with you! Every congregation has treasured ways of celebrating the glory and the beauty of the story of the Incarnation—how God came to his people as a baby so long ago in Bethlehem.

I’m looking forward to the candles and the stories and the decorations and the poinsettias and—glory be—the MUSIC! This is such a special time of year and it will be a privilege for me to share in it with you.

You’ll see in this newsletter many signs of how we will be sharing it: Charities and ministries we support, like Fostering Hope, and Pennridge Fish have special events and collections planned. Our own denomination, the United Church of Christ, has a special fund at this time to

help retired clergy and clergy in crisis. St. Paul’s will be hosting a special Longest Night service on the Winter Solstice with several other UCC congregations for hurting people who need a break from high energy festivities of this time. We will have families lead us in lighting Advent candles as we anticipate the coming of the Christ Child. And it will culminate in a Christmas Eve service filled with carols, candles, and the story of God’s Comfort and Joy to all.



Steven Says, *I can't wait to share with you in all of this Joy!*

And I can't wait to share it with your families and friends!

DECEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel via our website.

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

Lay Liturgist for December: Rick Moyer

December 7 | Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Family: The Huff Family

Text: Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon: **Prepare the Way!**

Two Thousand years ago John the Baptist arrived on the scene in Judea calling people to repent and be baptized. He repeatedly used a phrase originally spoken (and written by the Prophet Isaiah): *Prepare the way!* What does it mean to “prepare the way for the Lord” in 2026?

December 14 | Third Sunday of Advent

Advent Family: Bartram Family

Text: Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon: **What Are the Signs?**

When John the Baptist began to question whether Jesus was the promised one, he sent some of his disciples to ask him. Instead of a simple yes, Jesus began to recount the things that were happening that were sure signs of the coming Messiah.

December 18 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent Family: The Moyer Family

Text: *Matthew 1:18-25*

Sermon: **Who is Jesus?**

On the last Sunday of Advent we go to the Apostle Paul’s opening to his letter to the Romans for a dense theological presentation of Jesus, the descendent of King David.

December 24 | Christmas Eve

Advent Family: The Milkowich Family

Text: *Luke 2:1-14*

Sermon: **Terrified by Good News**

From Luke the Evangelist we learn that there were shepherds living out in the fields watching their flocks that night. It was to them that the angel appeared and made a most wonderful and curious announcement. They must have been thrilled and delighted, right? Well, no—Luke tells us they were *terrified!*

December 28 | First Sunday after Christmas

John 1:1-14

Sermon: **The True Light**

One of the most elegant and deep passages in the Bible is the preamble in the Gospel of John. The words in the original language are simple and straightforward: word, God, life, light, children, flesh. On Christmas morning we’ll reflect on the true light that shines in the darkness.

2025 ALTAR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex to sign up to sponsor altar flowers. If you are sponsoring flowers in honor of a person or a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary, please call or email the office with the information you would like in the bulletin by Tuesday of the week you are sponsoring the flowers.

St. Paul's provides silk flowers on the altar at no charge; however, if you'd like to purchase real flowers you may pay a florist directly to do so. We strongly recommend **Perkasie Florist** (101 N. 5th St. Perkasie) for real flowers as they have inserts for our vases and will deliver your flowers to the church. They are happy to accommodate color choice. Order at least one week in advance: 215-257-7011.

HOW DO YOU GET THE GOOD NEWS?

Did you know there are five different ways to receive and read our monthly newsletter, The Good News?

- 1) We print color copies and place them in the narthex of the sanctuary so people can pick them up when they come for Sunday morning worship.
- 2) Some people have requested that a printed copy be reserved for them in their mailbox in the hallway outside the library.
- 3) Some of our shut-in members or out-of-state friends request that a printed copy be mailed to them by USPS. We keep a mailing list for those people.
- 4) Some people request to receive a pdf copy emailed to them. They are placed on an email distribution list so they get the newsletter as soon as it comes out.
- 5) The newsletter is also published to our church website (St. Paul's UCC Sellersville). By visiting the site and pulling down the "about" tab, you can find the latest newsletter, as well as newsletters going back for over three years.



If you would like to change the way you regularly receive The Good News, please contact our church secretary, Cathy Vogeding at cathy@stpaulsucc.net.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES



Our Wednesday afternoon Bible study is continuing in December until the weeks of Christmas and New Years. Studies are led by Pastor Steven and meet in Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 3:30. All are welcome and we encourage inviting friends to come along. We are working our way through the Gospel of Luke and will continue at Luke 10:1 on December 3. No previous experience with Bible study is necessary—this is a place to learn God's Word.

PENNRIDGE CROP WALK UPDATE

The 42nd annual Pennridge CROP Walk/Rock for Hunger was held on Sunday, October 12, 2025.

Here is an update about the Pennridge Crop Walk. There were walkers and rockers from 17 congregations that helped surpass the goal of \$25,500 by nearly \$2,000. So far, the donations received totaled \$27,483.35 have been received. That means Pennridge FISH will receive \$6,870 from the CROP Walk and the remaining funds will go to Church World Service to help end hunger in the U.S. and around the world.

St. Paul's had 9 walkers and 2 dogs participating in the CROP Walk. (I apologize for missing Joselyn in the previous count). St. Paul's raised \$2,736 which included \$1,000 from the Endowment Committee. A sincere thank you to everyone who walked and donated to the CROP Walk to help end hunger locally and worldwide. Also, a thank you to the Endowment Committee for their generous donation.

Robin Frank
St. Paul's CROP Walk coordinator



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD THANKS



Thank you to everyone who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. This year we collected 30 shoeboxes!

Thank you to all who donated food items and monetary donations to cover shipping expenses for the college care packages, too.

Pictured here are Cam and Braylon with the shoeboxes they brought for the dedication on November 16.



PENNRIDGE FISH CHRISTMAS TOY PROGRAM IS BACK

THE PENNRIDGE FISH
Christmas Toy
PROGRAM
IS BACK!

PENNRIDGE FISH IS COLLECTING
NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS/GIFTS
AND \$25 WALMART/TARGET GIFT
CARDS FOR CHILDREN AGES 1-16
NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 10TH

PLEASE VISIT OUR AMAZON
HOLIDAY WISH LIST FOR EASY
GIVING OR DROP TOYS OFF AT
FISH DURING OPEN HOURS -
MONDAY/WEDNESDAY 3-5PM
THURSDAY 6-8PM
FRIDAY/SATURDAY 9-11AM

800 W CHESTNUT ST., PERKASIE
WWW.PENNRIDCFISH.ORG
215-257-7616

THANK YOU



We received a beautiful letter from Phoebe Ministries thanking St. Paul's for our generosity and belief in their mission and support work to provide compassionate, person-centered care to every resident who calls Phoebe home, as well as charitable care for those in need. Because of us, the residents at Phoebe will continue to experience programs and services that improve quality of life, including seasonal celebrations, enriching community life activities and uplifting spiritual programs.

LONGEST NIGHT DECEMBER 21

As the holiday season gathers momentum, many among us carry quiet burdens, such as grief, stress, illness, loneliness, or simply the heaviness of a difficult year. The Longest Night Service offers gentle space for honesty, healing, and hope. It honors the reality that not everyone feels merry and bright and reminds us that God's light meets us even in our deepest fears and our deepest darkness.

Several UCC churches are gathering here at St. Paul's at **4 PM on Sunday, December 21** for a reflective, candle-lit worship experience with prayer, music, and moments of silence. Whether you come for yourself or on behalf of someone you love, you are welcome to rest, breathe, and be held by a community of compassion.



CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00

We invite you to make worship at St. Paul's an important part of your family's experience of Christmas this year.



THIS DECEMBER

From Fostering Hope:



SANTA'S COMING

Come see Santa and Mrs. Claus

HOT CHOCOLATE | TREATS | PHOTO WITH SANTA | TOUR FOSTER CLOSET

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025 | 5 - 7 PM

\$25 PER FAMILY AND \$15 PER FOSTER FAMILY

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A TIME SLOT!



St. Paul's UCC
104 Green St, Sellersville, PA



All proceeds benefit
Fostering Hope Upper Bucks

At Trinity Lutheran:

★ TRINITY'S JOY GROUP WELCOMES ALL SENIORS TO OUR ANNUAL ★

JOY GROUP

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 5, 2025

12PM
DOORS OPEN AT 11:30AM

ENJOY A CATERED LUNCH AND
CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY MUSIC
BY STEVEN SIMPSON
"THE SINGING PASTOR"



★

Ticket Price : \$20

Trinity Lutheran Church
19 S. 5th Street
Perkasie, PA

★

TO BUY TICKETS,
SEE DONNA HUFF
BY NOV. 30

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

ORDER & PAY BY DECEMBER 7TH

\$9.50 EACH - PAY TO ROBIN FRANK

Poinsettia order forms are available in the church narthex.

SPECIAL OFFERING

“...WHEN THEY SAW
THE **STAR**,
THEY WERE FILLED
WITH **JOY** ...”
MATTHEW 2:10



Donate to The Christmas Fund

Your care and compassion will make a tangible difference in the lives of our ministers, church workers, and their families in need.



Donate Online Here!

*"When they saw the star,
they were filled with joy."
—Matthew 2:10*

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.

United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need.

Thank you!



www.christmasfund.org



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01 -- Dennis Hauptert	12/11 -- Nicholas Frank	12/19 -- Barry Kuhn
12/02 -- Cindy Fosbenner	12/12 -- Jean Gehman	Chris Ziegenfuss
Connor Murray	12/13 -- Carol Kuhn	12/21 -- Krista Steffy
Richard Wilhelm	Rebecca Schmidt	12/23 -- Jeff Allen
12/07 -- Lindsay Brooks	12/14 -- John Bibic	12/26 -- Michael Bibic
Lukas Frank	John Hunsberger	12/30 -- Chris Fosbenner
12/09 -- Caroline Hendricks		
Amy Hunsberger		

JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE: Wednesday, January 14, 2026

CONSISTORY

Rick Moyer, *President*
Marie Runkle, *Vice President*
Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*
Nancy Ziegenfuss, *Secretary*

Chris Fosbenner
Scott Huff
Debbie Koehler
Lori Milkowich

Arlene Peters
Carol Bonsted
McKenna Milkowich
Youth Representative

Consistory minutes are available in the Narthex

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson, Interim Pastor
Office Hours: Wednesdays or by appointment

Cathy Vogeding, Church Secretary
Office Hours: Wed./Thurs. 9:00am –4:00pm

Nathan Gulla, Organist

Cindy Bibic, Financial Secretary

Christopher Ziegenfuss, Choir Director

Peter Ziegenfuss, Handbell Choir Director

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chris@stpaulsucc.net

peter@stpaulsucc.net



December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm		Pastor Steven sings Christmas Songs at Trinity Lutheran 12:00pm – 2:00	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship 10:15am	Fostering Hope Santa Picture Fundraiser 5:00pm – 7:00pm Handbell Choir 7:00pm	Finance Committee 7:00pm	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			Sellersville Winterfest 500pm – 8:00pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10:15am Congregational Meeting Following worship	Handbell Choir 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl 1:00–3:00pm Consistory 7:00pm	December Newsletter Submissions Due Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10:15am Longest Night Service 4:00pm	Handbell Choir 7:00pm		Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm 	Christmas 		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Worship 10:15am						