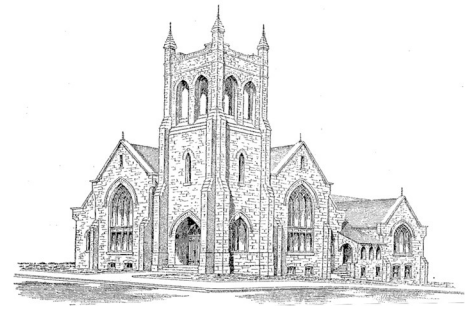


# Sharing the



## GOOD NEWS



**February 2023**

**St. Paul's UCC**

***"THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!"***

Dear Friends, Thank you for your gift of \$400. received on 11/28/2022.....God bless you, and Merry Christmas!  
(“Operation Christmas Child” postage ~ Samaritan’s Purse International Relief).

Dear Friends, thank you for your generation contribution....May God bless you for your kindness.  
(Church World Service Kit Program, 11/28/2022, \$2,775.).

This festive holiday season feels like the right to me to share our warmest thanks for your generous support during the past year. Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season!  
(Fostering Hope, 12/13/22).

Dear Donor, Thank you for your donation of \$800. on 12/15/2022. We are blessed to have such caring members of the community raising hope and lifting the spirits of those fighting food insecurity during this Christmas season. It is with your generous support that FISH is able to continue its outreach to those in need in the Pennridge community.  
*Harry Tucker, President, Pennridge FISH Organization, Inc.*

Dear Pastor Trudy and All the Carolers, Thank you for your visit last Sunday. We enjoyed the carols and seeing all the St. Paul’s friends. Wishing a Merry Christmas to all and a Happy Healthy New Year.  
*Bob and Nancy Booz*

Dear St. Paul’s UCC Church, Thank you for your continued support. Your time and talent for the Lap Blankets and hats are greatly appreciated. They make a difference to our veterans in nursing homes and homeless shelters. Have a safe and healthy New Year. God Bless you and all.  
*Commander Paul Gerhart, Jr., John Rivers Memorial VFW Post 11322, January 2, 2023.*

Thank you for your contribution of General Wishlist items and Gift Cards. In-kind contributions are a valuable asset to our organization as they enable us to provide additional opportunities and services for the youth in our care. Together, we are providing each youth the opportunity to become the person they really want to be and have the life they so desperately deserve.  
*Carolyn Shultz Spano, Director of Development, Bethany Children’s Home, January 4, 2023.*

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our dear St. Paul’s church family and friends for your kind remembrances of us again this year at Christmas. We enjoyed every card, cookie, candy, candle, and more! We also enjoyed and were delighted to host the December consistory meeting and party at the parsonage!! Looking forward to sharing in church life with you in 2023!!!  
*Kevin and Pastor Trudy*





**St. Paul's  
United Church of Christ  
104 Green Street  
Sellersville PA 18960**

Phone: 215-257-7268

Fax: 215-257-0902

Web: [www.stpaulsucc.net](http://www.stpaulsucc.net)

Pastor Trudy:

Phone 267-733-4153

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tuesday 9-12 Noon

Pastor's Day Off: Friday

### **Staff**

♦ Rev. Trudy Irving, Pastor  
([pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:pastortrudy@stpaulsucc.net))

♦ Nancy Ziegenfuss,  
Director of Education  
([nancy@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:nancy@stpaulsucc.net))

♦ Brianna Link,  
Church Secretary,  
([brianna@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:brianna@stpaulsucc.net))

♦ Christopher Ziegenfuss,  
Choir Director  
([chris@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:chris@stpaulsucc.net))

♦ Peter Ziegenfuss,  
Handbell Choir Director  
([peter@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:peter@stpaulsucc.net))

♦ Nathan Gulla, Organist  
([nathan@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:nathan@stpaulsucc.net))

♦ Cindy Bibic,  
Financial Secretary  
([cindy@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:cindy@stpaulsucc.net))

**Weekly Hybrid Worship:  
In-Person, and Livestream  
at 10:15am in the Sanctuary**



## **~ A Note from the Pastor ~**

The month of February brings us to the end of the church season after the Epiphany and the celebration of The Transfiguration and leads us into, yes, the church season of Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd. \*This Season of Lent begins in the wilderness, a place that feels both familiar and dreaded after the recent pandemic. While we might emphasize the loneliness and desolation of the wilderness, wilderness times are not just empty and barren. Just as a wilderness can be teeming with life, our wilderness times can also surprise us with the life they hold. Our lives can also feel clarifying and renewed as we find within ourselves new awareness.

We will begin Lent in the familiar landscape of the wilderness with the tempter's questions to Jesus. That growing awareness during Lent shifts from Jesus to Nicodemus' assurance of God's deep care and self-giving love in the winds of change and new birth. We continue to find a new awareness of ourselves in the questions asked of and by the Samaritan woman and by the one blind in the gospel of John. If we didn't notice it before, we begin to notice that there are companions in the wilderness who encourage our survival.

Will we be companions in the wilderness? Will we encourage not only each other's survival, but will be alert to that new awareness that we seek to find within ourselves: a deeper awareness of God's call on our lives; a deeper awareness of God's self-giving love for you and for me in the winds of change and new birth; a deeper awareness of God's desire for us to grow closer to *The Church's One Foundation* which is *Jesus Christ Her Lord*? Will you join the Lenten journey this year?

Sharing the journey, *Pastor Trudy*

(\*The above 'note' contains excerpts from About Lent and Easter 2023, SeasonsFusion Lent\*Easter 2023)



**Snow Alert:** Yes, the possibility of snow is still before us in February. In the event of inclement weather that could affect a Sunday morning, the Pastor and Consistory President will make a decision regarding delays or cancellations by 7am. Information will be shared via emailblast, placed on our website and Facebook page, and on the office answering machine (215-257-7268).

***SHARING LIFE'S JOURNEY BY BUILDING OUR  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH JESUS AND EACH OTHER!***



# FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES

February Lay Liturgists:

Mary Beth Baringer ~ Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>; Donna Huff ~ Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School: TBA

Sunday Worship at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

♦ Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

-Scriptures: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9, (10); 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:13-20

-Theme: "Greatness of Heart"

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

♦ Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany

-Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

-Theme: "From the Heart"

-Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

-*Souper Bowl of Caring!*

♦ Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Transfiguration Sunday!

-Scriptures: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

-Theme: "Sacred Encounters"

-Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation.

-Annual Congregational Celebration Luncheon Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following our worship service.



♦ Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ash Wednesday

~The UCC Upper Bucks churches will offer a collaborative Ash Wednesday service at Noon; the service will be held at St. Luke's Ottsville.

~St. Paul's will hold an Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.; the service will be a brief contemplative service of prayer with the imposition of ashes.\*\*\*

\*\*\***Please note:** there will be a mid-week collaborative offering during Lent; the day of week, times, and the type of gathering is being decided at a January 31<sup>st</sup> collaborative meeting. Details will be shared with you as soon as those decisions are finalized.

♦ Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday in Lent

-Scriptures: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

-Theme: "Into the Wilderness"

-Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation.

**Sign up for coffee, cookies, and conversation that is held immediately following our Sunday morning worship services; the sign-up sheet is in Fretz Hall on the main serving table. Coffee is provided.**



## 2023 St. Paul's UCC

### Consistory:

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

### Endowment Committee:

*Aaron Clark, Neil Clark, Robin Frank, Deb Koehler, Rick Moyer, Terry Weikel, Chris Ziegenfuss.*

### Cemetery Trustees:

*Alex Potoczny, Jay Wenger, Terry Weikel*



**Annual Congregational Celebration Luncheon Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following our worship service on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>!!!**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



### Our Church Family

1<sup>st</sup> – Adam Fosbenner  
Vera Jean Houpert  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Jacob Baringer  
4<sup>th</sup> – Jamie Stover  
7<sup>th</sup> – Mike Molettiere  
12<sup>th</sup> – McKenna Milkowich  
13<sup>th</sup> – Andria Knechel  
Jeremy Yerger  
16<sup>th</sup> – Matthew Milkowich  
Cameron Allen  
17<sup>th</sup> – John Moyer  
19<sup>th</sup> – Melissa Yerger

20<sup>th</sup> – Jay Wenger  
21<sup>st</sup> – Gary Anglemoyer  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Katelyn Dusza  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Dr. Patricia Guth  
24<sup>th</sup> – William Benner  
25<sup>th</sup> – Faith Hawkins  
26<sup>th</sup> – Christopher Buckley  
27<sup>th</sup> – Lisa Betz  
Mike Hendricks  
28<sup>th</sup> – Martin Bosch  
Scott Bosch

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**Check out our new church website: [stpaulsucc.net](http://stpaulsucc.net)**





## Pennridge FISH Current Needs 2/2023

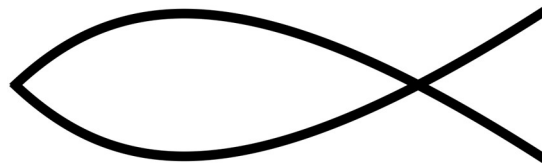
Canned Meats--Spam, Canned Ham, Beef Stew  
 Canned Chicken  
 Canned Sardines  
 Mustard  
 Meal Helpers--hamburger, tuna, rice, pasta  
 Shelf Stable Meals i.e. Hormel Compleats  
 \*Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghettios, Beefaroni, etc)  
 Boxed Mashed Potatoes  
 Brown Rice  
 White Rice  
 Spaghetti  
 Bagged Dry Beans  
 \*Canned Soups  
 \*Canned Vegetables  
 \*Canned Spinach  
 \*Canned Beets  
 \*Canned Pineapple  
 Applesauce  
 Pickles  
 Oatmeal  
 \*Jelly  
 Misc Nuts (pistachios, walnuts, pecans...)  
 \*Hot Chocolate  
 \*Coffee  
 Cooking Oil  
 Sugar/Flour  
 Salt/Pepper

Grated Cheese--shelf stable Parmesan, 3 Cheese, etc  
 Ketchup

Mayonnaise  
 \*Salad Dressing  
 Alfredo Sauce  
 \*Diapers 2-3-4T-5T-6T  
 \*Diapers Size 4,5,6,7/Trainer/Night Time Pull-Ups  
 \*Baby Wipes  
 \*Toothpaste  
 \*Toothbrushes  
 \*Facial Tissues  
 \*Paper Towels  
 Toilet Paper  
 \*Bar Soap  
 \*Shampoo/Conditioner  
 Razors  
 \*Laundry Detergent  
 \*Dish Soap  
 Apples, Oranges, Onions, Potatoes--Take directly to  
 FISH after purchase

\*items are out completely or almost out  
 Hours: Mon/Wed 3:00-5:00, Thurs 6:00-8:00  
 Fri/Sat 9:00-11:00  
 800 W. Chestnut St, PO Box 9  
 Perkasi, PA 18944 215-257-7616

THE ABOVE LIST IS PRINTED ON "**PINK**" PAPER  
 AND IS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH'S NARTHEX!



**FISH** takes it's symbol, the Icthus fish, from early Christianity,  
 and its' acronym stands for: **F**ellowship **I**n **S**erving **H**umanity.

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."



## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE WRAP UP

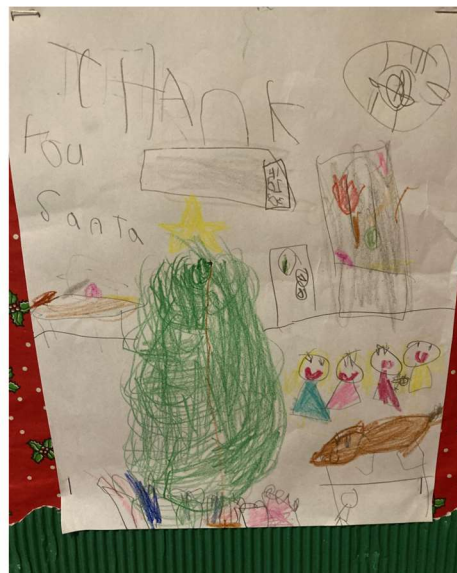
Another wonderful response from our St. Paul's members for supplying our Christmas family with a terrific holiday!

Our family this year was Lamar & Stephanie and their daughters Londyn (6) and Livia(3) and son Laiden (7mths). This family has had a rough year and were so grateful for the assistance we were able to give them. Each time I spoke or saw either Lamar or Stephanie, they were so truly humbled by what we were doing for them. We shared lots of hugs and even some tears! Things are starting to turn around for them and I ask that you keep them in your prayers as they move forward in a positive direction into 2023. We assisted them with not only wanted and needed gifts to open Christmas morning but through our Endowment Fund, we assisted with payment of a school tuition bill and a Polar Express train ride for the family (a gift request from Londyn). I have posted pictures in the Narthex of their train ride as well as Christmas morning...please take a look and see the joy on the children's faces...it sure tugs at the heart! A handwritten note from mom and a picture made by Londyn are also hanging. I have included the note below as well as the thanks to "Santa" picture from Londyn.

"To the congregation that made our holiday so special,  
Thank you - I hesitate to even say that, because "Thank You" doesn't seem near enough. The compassion, love and generosity you shared with my family during this season was truly an answered prayer. The faces I saw on my children Christmas morning are core memories I will hold onto forever. Our family is so grateful for you all and feel so humbled. My oldest drew a picture for Santa with her new art supplies and was so excited for me to send it to "Santa"...know that you all are "Santa"...and it made a world of difference in the lives of a child this season.

Proverbs 16:20 ESV "Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord."

Love, The Fishers'





## **Gingerbread Bash Re-told**



We had a blast at the Gingerbread Bash held on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall. Eleven children and twelve adults participated. We played games, heard the Christmas story, and made gingerbread nativities.

Special thanks to McKenna, Marlena, Tessa, Jacob, Jocelyn and Simon - the youth who came to lend a hand and even joined in the fun.

Sincere appreciation goes out to the members of the Christian Ed Team: Rick Moyer, Marty Milkowich, Holly Weideman, and Patti Steich who were there to help things run smoothly and stayed after to clean up. They were so wonderful, I barely had to do a thing!

Thank you to Marty Milkowich and Jocelyn Ziegenfuss for taking pictures during the event and to Preston Ziegenfuss for putting together videos of the event that were shared during worship on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Extra special kudos and appreciation to Brandon Barndt for preparing and running all of the AV and technology for the event. His enthusiasm and service is so, so appreciated.



## **Gingerbread Bash Re-told continued:**

It sure was fun to be together, laughing, playing, and fellowshiping as we got into the Christmas spirit. But the real reason we hosted this event was to share the best Christmas gift ever – the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grown-ups and kids alike rolled up their sleeves and got messy as they built gingerbread nativities using graham crackers, homemade icing, and candy galore.

When the construction was finished, we asked the kids to use their nativity scenes and their cut-out characters to retell the Christmas story. Many of them were camera shy, but thanks to Brenda Clark, who did a lot of coaching, Hadley and her cousin Ella remembered the key pieces of the Christmas story. And as we all know, the story never gets old -- no matter how old you are. So thank you to Jacob and Simon who were good sports and summarized the Christmas story too.

Be sure to check out the Gingerbread Bash Re-told on St. Paul's YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOMkmgdmh-A> (beginning at 35:05)



### **Thank you, bakers!**

Thank you to everyone who provided cookies and other yummy treats for the Gingerbread Bash. They were the perfect finishing touch to our sweet celebration!

### **It's a Family Thing!**



We ARE a church family! What a joy it was to be together, old and young and in-between, on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Breakfast and Christmas Bible Jeopardy! Smiles, laughter, and cheer filled the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to Paul Koehler and his team of elves who prepared and served breakfast and who stayed after to clean up.

Thank you to Peter Ziegenfuss who re-arranged bell rehearsal so that the bell choir could participate in breakfast and Christmas Bible Jeopardy.

Thank you to Sam Clark who prepared and ran a fun, festive, spirited competition for all of us.

And thanks to all of you who attended and contributed to the warm, joyful, family atmosphere.





## **Souper Bowl of Caring**

A simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat" is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

That was 1990. Since then, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary more than \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul's youth will be standing in the Narthex holding soup pots and asking for your contributions to support the ministry of Penridge FISH to the local community. Please plan to bring monetary donations as well as donations of canned soup to provide a nourishing meal to our neighbors throughout the community.



**ReCharge.**  
St. Paul's | Green St. | Sellersville

**Upcoming ReCharge dates:**

**Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>**



We plan to host **Camp Sonshine** once again this summer. If you are interested in helping in ANY way, please speak to Nancy Ziegenfuss.





### **With Heartfelt Sympathy**

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Grace Amanda (Houck) Myers. Grace passed away Monday, January 9, 2023, at Grand View Hospital, West Rockhill Twp., PA. She was 94. She was the loving wife of 59 years of the late Warren Ellwood Myers until his passing on July 28, 2005. Born in Perry County, PA, she was the daughter of the late Charles Lowell and Grace V. (Burd) Houck. Mrs. Myers began her long-time banking career with Provident Bank then PNC Bank before ending her career with Harleysville National Bank where she worked as a bank manager until retiring in the early 2000's. She was a member of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Sellersville, PA. Mrs. Myers was a member of the former Pennridge Chamber of Commerce and the Soroptimist International Club. She will be remembered for her love of being a "mom", tending to her family and serving as a caretaker to others. She is survived by two children, Patricia A. Fretz and her husband Carl T., of Perkasio, PA, and Michael L. Myers and his wife Regan, of Bernville, PA; a grandson, Steven T. Fretz and his wife Lydia, of Perkasio, PA; and four great-grandchildren, Alexa, Kylie, Sierra and Jade Fretz. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Ruth E. Godshall, and three brothers, Charles Jr., John and Wade Houck. Her first Funeral Service was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at the Suess-Gahman Funeral Home, 606 Arch Street, Perkasio, PA; a second Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at the Pine Grove Church of God, 2041 Newport Road, Newport, PA. Interment followed in the Pine Grove Church of God Cemetery, Newport. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 104 Green Street, Sellersville, PA 18960 or [www.stpaulsucc.net](http://www.stpaulsucc.net)



### **"LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM"**

Just beside Fretz Hall, tucked into the back area is an alcove. That area has been a classroom, a crafting space for past Bazaars and events, plus more. Today, it sits empty and is a storage space of sorts.

As 2023 moves forward, watch for the Alcove to become a Living History Museum. Thanks to Aaron Clark and Endowment monies, his vision of a Living Museum in that area will begin to take shape. It will be a display of history, changing with the Seasons of the Church, but will also be a quiet place for reflection and prayer. Small groups will also be able to share this space.

Watch for opportunities open to you to help with this project. More details coming soon.

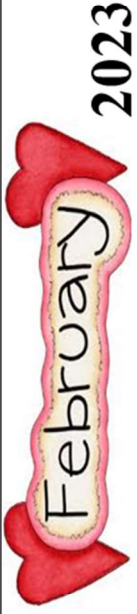
~Submitted by *Karen Weikel*

Living History Museum Team: Aaron Clark, Karen Weikel, Deb Koehler, Chris Ziegenfuss, Preston Ziegenfuss, and Jim Chrastina.

### **WE ARE WORKING ON AN UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY AND CORNER OF CARE LIST.**

If you have a mailing address, phone number, or email address change, please contact Brianna Link, Church Secretary, so your information can be updated in our system and in our church directory. Accurate and updated information allows for better communication. In the near future, we will be creating a hard copy of an updated Corner of Care Prayer List. Please make sure you are given permission to have someone's name added to that published list. Thank you.



						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Sunday School: TBA</b>			1 Sr. Ch. Reh. 7pm	2	3	4 Fellowship Hall rental, 10:30am to 12:30pm
5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:15am  Confirmation Class meets in the Fellowship Hall, 1:00pm – 2:00pm	6 AA Noon  Handbells, 7pm	7 AA Noon  Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1pm Consistory Meeting 7pm	8  Sr. Ch. Reh. 7pm	9	10	11
12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:15am  Souper Bowl of Caring!	13 AA Noon  Handbells, 7pm	14AA Noon  <i>Valentine's Day!</i>	15  Sr. Ch. Reh. 7pm	16	17	18
19 Transfiguration Sunday Worship 10:15am  *Annual Congregational Celebration/Luncheon/ meeting immediately following worship!	20AA Noon  Handbells, 7pm	21 AA Noon  Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1pm	22 <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Service with imposition of ashes, 7pm with Sr. Ch. Reh. to follow.	23	24	25
26 First Sunday in Lent Worship 10:15am  Re-Charge Youth 6:30-8:00pm	27 AA Noon  Handbells, 7pm	28 AA Noon				



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
104 Green Street  
Sellersville, PA 18960  
*Return Service Requested*



*Prepared Especially for.....*

Mailed, 01-26-2023  
Time-Sensitive Materials



**February 15th**



**February 22<sup>nd</sup>  
with the imposition of ashes.**