

JANUARY 2025

 [www.stpaulsucc.net](http://www.stpaulsucc.net)  @stpaulssellersville  St. Paul's 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*



*In the event of inclement weather, Pastor Trudy and the Consistory President will make a decision regarding delays or cancelations by 7:00am. Information will be shared by email, on our website and Facebook page, and on the office answering machine (215-257-7268).*

## FROM THE PASTOR

On January 6, the church moves from the season of Christmas into another season in the life of the church, the season of Epiphany. You remember those astrologers, also referred to as kings, from the Near East that scripture tells us “followed the star they had seen in the east.....until it stood over the place where the child was.” (Matthew 2:9b). Epiphany is a Greek word meaning “appearing” or “revealing” – the discovery of the child by these travelers from the Near East is called the revealing of God in his Son to the nations of the world; and so, the Day of Epiphany opens a season of light – the Lord’s light – that has entered the lives of humanity in all the world. The New Testament calls Jesus the Light of the World; Jesus Christ who brings us into a right relation with his Father through knowledge, healing and salvation.

Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr in their book, “The Circle of Life: The Heart’s Journey Through the Seasons” recommend a *Star Shining Ritual*. They refer to the birth of Christ as the coming of the Christ-Star into the world. They write, “It is a time to remember how God’s Beloved came to restore harmony to a fractured world, to dispel whatever keeps love from shining through all beings. The Christ-Star, this Irresistible Love in us, this Radiant Goodness, is at the core of our soul.....each of us has the light of this Shining Star within us.”

In the *Star Shining Ritual* hold a lit candle (battery operated is suggested and acceptable). Stand and face the direction of East. Hold the candle in front of your heart to signify that you have Divine Love shining within you. Next, hold the candle out in front of you as far as possible, signifying an offering of this Love and Light to all people who dwell in the East. As you hold out your candle, name aloud the various groups of people who live in the East as a way of uniting with them. After this, offer this prayer: *Star of Love, shine your goodness through me. Star of Love, unite my heart with the heart of the world.* This same pattern is simply repeated for the other three directions: south, west, and north.

After you have prayed in every direction, once more hold the candle to your heart and then move it slowly in a circle in front of you. Hold the light for family, friends, all loved ones, all who are a part of your circle of life. Send the light and love of the Star-Light within you to all who are in this personal circle of your life.

I think this little ritual is not only a great way to begin a new calendar year – or church year – but an intentional way of remembering every day of every year: each of us has the Light of Christ, the Christ-Star...within us....and this Light...is to be shared.....in this season and every season of our lives!

Christmas & Epiphany Blessings, *Pastor Trudy*

## The Little Season of Christmas

The twelve days of Christmas from December 25 through January 5 are our opportunity to celebrate God's greatest gift to us and the hope that he brings into a world troubled by unrest, hunger and darkness. December 26 is the festival of St. Stephen, deacon and first martyr (Acts 7). December 27 is the festival of St. John, the apostle and Gospel writer. December 28 is the day of the Holy Innocents, who were the boy children of Bethlehem killed by Herod's soldiers as they searched for the baby Jesus. On January 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate the Name of Jesus. The days of Christmas end on January 5, Twelfth night, the Eve of the Epiphany of our Lord.

(The Little Season of Christmas is taken from I Love to Live the Story: A Guide to Understanding & Celebrating The Christian Church Year by Arden Mead and King Schoenfeld).

## JANUARY 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 Liturgists:** The Milkowich Family

### January 5 | Epiphany Sunday

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

### January 12 | 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany:

**Baptism of the Lord**

*Installation of 2025 Church Leaders: Consistory,  
Endowment, Cemetery Trustees*

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 19 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: John 2:1-11

### January 26 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Luke 4:14-21

Worship and reflection resources: Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1, Advent Through Pentecost, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor; Hymns for the Family of God; Worship & Praise Songbook; UCC Book of Worship.

## SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

Meets in the Parlor. Facilitated by Jeremiah Link.

**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.

## FOSTERING HOPE BUCKS



Your donations of toiletries helped to restock our shelves in the foster closet at St. Paul's. Thank you for your continued generosity!

On January 11, 2025, at our Open Shop, foster families will come to the closet to select winter clothes and supplies. If you are able, please place donations of NEW winter hats and gloves in the Fostering Hope bin in the Narthex. Thank you in advance!

Last month we explained one of the 3 initiatives of Fostering Hope, *Bags of Hope*. Another initiative is *Dignity Duffles*. When children are placed in foster care, there is often little time to quickly gather the things they might want to take with them. Instead of packing their treasures in trash bags, the caseworker gives the child a *Dignity Duffle*. Fostering Hope is dedicated to providing children experiencing foster care with a new duffle bag when moving from one home to another. We purchase these duffles with generous donations from individuals, churches, and businesses in our community.

***Thank You!***

## PRAYER SHAWL DONATIONS

### Fostering Hope

- 10 baby blankets

### Penridge FISH

- 6 scarves
- 13 hats

### Phoebe

- 10 lap blankets
- 12 prayer shawls

### Hospital

- 7 blankets

### VFW Quakertown

- 14 hats
- 55 hearts
- 54 lab blankets

## ALTAR FLOWERS 2025

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex to sign up to sponsor Altar Flowers in 2025. Please note there is **no charge** to sponsor these silk flowers. If you are sponsoring to honor a person or a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary, please call or email the office (215-257-7268 or [secretary@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:secretary@stpaulsucc.net)) with the information you would like in the bulletin by Tuesday of the week you are sponsoring the flowers.



*I want to give a thank you to Kevin and Neil for all they did at the church when we didn't have a custodian. It didn't go unnoticed. It was very much appreciated. Thank you! - Robin Frank*

*Thank you, Love In Action, for your generosity. Our family cannot adequately express our gratitude to the team and the fund. Because of the help Love In Action has provided, our family has been able to receive the support of mental health services. It has been an enormous burden lifted. - Anonymous*

## CAROLING

On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> a group from St. Paul's headed out to share the Christmas spirit! Our first two stops were at the Lutheran Community at Telford and the Community at Rockhill where we were delighted to have former choir members, Jean Gehman and Gerry Scheetz, join in the singing. From there we paid visits to Bob & Nancy Booz, Dolly Bibic, and Lucille Moore. It was such a meaningful afternoon! More are invited to join in the fun next year.



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1/3 – Bess Anglemoyer
- 1/6 – David Moyer
- 1/15 – Jeremy Mask
- 1/29 – Stacey Moyer
- 1/31 – David Nemec

## CONFIRMATION

2025 Confirmation Class, Simon Ziegenfuss (L) and Jaxon Moyer (R), their mentors Kevin Irving and Nancy Moyer, Chriz Ziegenfuss, and Pastor Trudy, after completing their assignment on-site at Pennridge FISH, also participated in a mission project of packing Christmas food bags for the fish clients.



### CELEBRATING 40+ YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Mr. and Mrs. David Renner – January 27, 1972

**PASTOR VACATION DAYS:**  
December 25, 2024 – January 3, 2025

**SECRETARY VACATION DAYS:**  
December 25, 2024 – January 1, 2025

**FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE:**  
January 20, 2024

**ENDOWMENT\***

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

**CONSISTORY\***

Nancy Ziegenfuss  
Marie Runkle  
Arlene Peters  
Jim Chrastina  
Jocelyn Ziegenfuss  
Chris Fosbenner  
Scott Huff  
Debbie Koehler  
Rick Moyer

**CEMETARY TRUSTEES\***

Alex Potoczny  
Terry Weikel  
Jay Wenger

**CEMETARY CONTACT**

Carol Nase: 267-374-9045

*\*On January 12, new leaders will be installed. Look for an updated list of team members in February.*

*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

**Brianna Link**, Church Secretary

*Office Hours:* Tues./Wed. 11:00am – 2:00pm

[brianna@stpaulsucc.net](mailto:brianna@stpaulsucc.net)  
215-257-7268

**Jeremiah Link**, Director of Christian Education

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

**Nathan Gulla**, Organist

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

**Cindy Bibic**, Financial Secretary

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



104 GREEN STREET SELLERSVILLE, PA 18960 | 215-257-7268

# January 2025

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                                | Friday                    | Saturday                                   |
|---|--|--|--|---|---------------------------|--|
| 29  | 30   | 31   | 1  | 2                                       | 3                         | 4  |
| Worship<br>10:15am<br><br><i>Pastor on Vacation</i> | <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>                                    | <i>New Year's Eve</i><br><i>Pastor on Vacation</i>         | <i>New Year's Day</i><br><i>Pastor on Vacation</i> | <i>Pastor on Vacation</i>               | <i>Pastor on Vacation</i> |  |
| 5   | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9                                       | 10                        | 11   |
| Worship<br>10:15am                                  | Bells<br>7:00pm  | Prayer Shawl<br>1:00 – 3:00pm                              | Choir<br>7:00pm                                    |   |                           | Fostering Hope<br>Open Shop<br>5:00–7:00pm |
| 12  | 13   | 14   | 15   | 16                                      | 17                        | 18   |
| Worship<br>10:15am                                  | Bells<br>7:00pm  | Growth & Hospitality<br>1:00pm<br><br>Consistory<br>7:00pm | Choir<br>7:00pm                                    |   |                           |  |
| 19  | 20   | 21   | 22   | 23                                      | 24                        | 25   |
| Worship<br>10:15am                                  | Bells<br>7:00pm<br><br><i>Newsletter<br/>Submissions due</i> | Prayer Shawl<br>1:00 – 3:00pm                              | Choir<br>7:00pm                                    | Red Cross<br>Blood Drive<br>2:00–7:00pm |                           |  |
| 26  | 27   | 28   | 29   | 30                                      | 31                        | 1  |
| Worship<br>10:15am                                  | Bells<br>7:00pm  |  | Choir<br>7:00pm                                    |   |                           |  |