

# 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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## NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

This year for the church season of Lent, St. Paul's will be joining and combining church families and leadership with St. Andrew's UCC and St. Stephen's UCC, both located in Perkasio. Rev. Jeff Wargo is pastor of St. Stephen's and Rev. Barbara Pence is pastor of St. Andrew's. I've known Pastor Barb for over 20 years as she and her husband, Nic, were my mentors when I was what was then called a Student in Care of the UCC Schuylkill Association (Sept. 2002 – June 2006) and also a student at Lancaster Theological Seminary (2003-2006). I met Jeff when I came to serve at St. Paul's in August of 2019 and have worked closest with him over the past 5 years as we have combined our efforts for the UCC Upper Bucks Cooperative.

We all went in different directions last year in our Lenten experiences. St. Paul's had no mid-week evening services but offered the Wednesday afternoon Bible Study hour. St. Stephen's tried a noon-day Lenten gathering in place of an evening gathering. St. Andrew's began in the early evening with a shared meal, Bible Study and then extended their time together for the livestream conversations regarding the Pennsylvania UCC Conference work of transitioning from four PA conferences into one Keystone Conference. All approaches to Lent were meaningful and successful, but something was missing! When I met with Jeff and Barb to discuss what Lent 2025 may look like, one thing was clear, congregations missed coming together to share in the Lenten experience.

Coming together as "three-in-one" for the church season of Lent does not take away each church's individual identity in their local setting - but it provides an opportunity to expand and grow in relationship with one another. There will be two opportunities to gather for a mid-week Lenten experience; you will choose between one of the two times which works best for you: 11:30am to 1pm (bring a bagged lunch) or 5:30pm to 7:00pm (a soup and sandwich meal provided by the host church except for the Ash Wednesday service which will be a pot-luck evening meal; and Maundy Thursday a soup only meal). The schedule of host sites appears in this newsletter. Folks attending each gathering will remain at table for the sharing of food and fellowship and a creative Lenten experience for the mid-week Lenten gatherings, the exception being Ash Wednesday (we will move into the sanctuary after eating); and the Maundy Thursday gathering will begin with a soup meal, but then we will move into St. Paul's sanctuary for a Tenebrae service.

The saying 'we are better together' may have lost some of its significance since we have heard it repeated in various circles of life. But, I believe all community churches are better together; even as each individual church has its own strengths, resources, and unique ministries they offer – the circle of outreach grows wider and deeper when connections are made with one another, resources shared with one another, and new possibilities of community ministries are explored together....all in the name of Jesus Christ! I know we at St. Paul's are in a time of transition – but God's love for us is unconditional, constant and enduring. We walk this road of Lent with Him – no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey. Join the journey of Lent and explore *"everything [in] between and meet God in the midst of extremes!*

In Christ's Service, *Pastor Trudy*

## MARCH 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:** Jim and Lucy Chrastina

### March 2 | Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36

### March 23 | 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 13:6-9

### March 9 | 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

### March 30 | 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 15:1-7

### March 16 | 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

### Looking Ahead

**April 13:** Palm Sunday

**April 20:** Easter Sunday

## 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.

## 2025 ALTAR FLOWERS

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex to sign up to sponsor altar flowers. 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.

## MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES SCHEDULE

Two Lenten gatherings for each date as follows:

**11:30am – 1:00pm:** Mid-day with a bag lunch

**5:30pm – 7:00pm:** Soup and sandwich evening meal provided by host church, except for Ash Wednesday evening meal (potluck) and Maundy Thursday (soup only).

<b>March 5</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b> Potluck meal; joint choir	<b>St. Andrew's</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>Mid-Week Lenten Service</b>	<b>St. Stephen's</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Mid-Week Lenten Service</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Mid-Week Lenten Service</b>	<b>St. Andrew's</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Mid-Week Lenten Service</b>	<b>St. Paul's</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>Mid-Week Lenten Service</b>	<b>St. Stephen's</b>

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<b>April 17</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> Evening service only; 5:30pm meal with Tenebrae service to follow in the Sanctuary; soup only for this evening meal	<b>St. Paul's</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b> Two service times; self-guided labyrinth with reflection stations	<b>St. Stephen's</b>

### **everything [in] between: Meeting God in the midst of extremes a Lenten series in Luke's gospel**

This series, inspired by the Narrative Lectionary (Year 3), allows the Gospel of Luke to guide us through Lent. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), the series flows through several familiar stories – the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zaccheus, and more. Many of these stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination, carrying cultural relevance and lore. For example, have you ever identified yourself as either a “Mary” or a “Martha?” The “Good Samaritan” title alone could reference a hospital, a charitable organization, a type of law, or a good deed. Perhaps you grew up singing “Zaccheus was a wee little man” in Sunday School. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

As modern readers, we sometimes lose the “shock factor” behind Jesus’ words, as his teaching tactics likely felt extreme for those in his context – in his setting and circumstances – in his time and place and culture. He describes a stigmatized Samaritan as a good neighbor. He emphasizes the value of 1 sheep in a herd of 100. He dines with a tax collector who amassed wealth through extortion. While dying on the cross, he tells a convicted criminal he will soon find paradise...Jesus emphasizes the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God.

This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between as St. Paul's, St. Andrew's and St. Stephen's join together to explore and experience Lent 2025.

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CONSISTORY PRESIDENT**

On February 4, 2025, the Consistory accepted the resignation letter of our beloved pastor, Rev. Trudy Irving. We hope you will plan to join us for her last Sunday with us on April 27 to celebrate all of our accomplishments and joys over the past 5 years.

We are entering into a process of transition and uncertainty. The leadership of St. Paul's wants to make sure that we complete this work in a spirit of faithfulness, hope, covenant with the UCC process, and transparency with the congregation. To that end, we will be providing the congregation with regular updates to the process, in our newsletter or email blasts.

At this point, the Consistory has reached out to the Southeast Conference's Associate Minister, Rev. Kevin McLemore. Marie Runkie and I have met with him to learn about where we go from here. The Consistory has agreed to serve as the Transition team and will be meeting with him as a whole group shortly.

There will be opportunities for congregational input through the transition, but if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 215-872-5931 or email me at [familymoyer@yahoo.com](mailto:familymoyer@yahoo.com).

Blessings, *Rick Moyer*

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## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHOIR DIRECTOR**

Praise The Lord!  
Sing to the Lord a new song.  
Sing His praises in the assembly of the faithful.  
*Psalm 149:1 (NLT)*

With two of our dedicated choir members moving away later this Spring and another heading off to college in the Fall, the choir needs more voices! There's no need to wait for those departures to happen, we'll happily welcome additional voices anytime now, it would be a real blessing to have a larger choir for the coming church seasons, including Easter. No experience necessary! We rehearse for about an hour and it is a fun time of singing, learning and fellowship. Please note our altered rehearsal schedule during Lent as printed on the church calendar. As I have mentioned several times over the past several years, please consider joining us even if you can't commit to every week. As much as possible, I try to make our rehearsal schedules accommodating to our modern hectic lives. Come make a joyful noise with us.

*Chris Ziegenfuss*, Choir Director

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## **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

**One Great Hour of Sharing 2025 Special Mission Offering**  
**Collection: Sunday, March 30**

## FOSTERING HOPE

Thank you for your donations of hats and gloves for the children who have shopped in the Foster Closet this winter! Fostering Hope has taken inventory of the pajama supply in the closet. Below is a list of items that are needed. Pajamas must be new, may be footed or without feet, and should not be fleece at this time. Girls' may be pajamas or pajama dresses. Your donations may be placed in the Fostering Hope bin in the Narthex. Thank you so much!

**Girls:** 18 mo., 24 mo./2T, 4T, 5T, 6/6x, 7/8

**Boys:** 9 mo., 12 mo., 18 mo.



## RAMPACKS

We have been blessed in February by two outside fundraisers and are looking forward to the culmination of our Share the Love Food Drive. Perkasio Women's Club arranged a Dine and Donate event with Perkasio Pizza and Pasta and will soon present a generous donation. Also, Sheryl Derstine, the owner of Shekala's, an adorable women's boutique at the old Telford Train Station, hosted a Galentine's Day event with proceeds going to RamPacks. RamPacks received her generous check this week.

We plan to pick up all of the food donations from around the community, churches, and all of the schools on Wednesday, February 26, check dates, sort and count them to divide between our three pantries that same day. Hopefully this collection will also be a great help to our mission.

As always, a big thanks to St. Paul's for our pantry and all of the snack donations we get continuously. Look forward to our second annual Food Fest which will be held this year on Sunday, May 4 at Pennridge High School. More information to come!

## PENNRIDGE CROP WALK

I finally received the total amount raised for the 2024 Pennridge CROP Walk. The total amount raised was \$25,479.59. St Paul's raised \$3,398.45 which included \$1,500.00 from the Endowment Committee. There were 20 churches, the Pennridge Ministerium, and 3 organizations that supported the Pennridge CROP Walk. I do not have a total number of walkers/rockers who participated that day but St Paul's had 6 walkers.

Thank you to everyone who walked and/or supported the Pennridge CROP Walk. You helped make a difference in ending hunger!

*Robin Frank, St. Paul's CROP walk coordinator*

## PENNRIDGE FISH

I want to thank everyone who contributed to Pennridge FISH with their donations on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the congregational gathering. With that donation and the donations from the FISH cupboard we donated 96.9lbs of supplies and food to FISH. Thank you to Simon and Kevin for packing everything up for me. Thank you for your continued support of Pennridge FISH – it is greatly appreciated and needed.

*Robin Frank*



As hurricanes, floods, and other disasters become more frequent the road to recovery can feel overwhelming. Your support fills CWS Emergency Cleanup Buckets with the essential supplies that make cleanup a little easier for those affected. This year, CWS (Church World Service) has updated the bucket to streamline the contents and keep it as effective and budget-friendly as possible.

Watch for a list of 'cleanup bucket' items needed in upcoming bulletins and emailblasts. Each host church will be working on filling a bucket, or two, or three throughout the season of Lent with a special blessing of St. Paul's buckets on Easter morning!

## THE PERENNIALS: WINTER GATHERING

On Tuesday, February 4, The Perennials gathered for an educational and entertaining presentation by Linda Kenyan. Linda is an actor who presented the one-woman show, "Julia Says, "Bon Appetit." (You may remember her from last year when she presented "A Life of My Own: Meeting Eleanor Roosevelt.") This year we learned about Julia Child's childhood in California, her marriage to her husband Paul, her adventures in World War II, her mastery of French cuisine, and her introduction of French cooking methods to America. All 32 members and friends of St. Paul's enjoyed the show and the luncheon that followed. Members of the Growth and Hospitality Team prepared French inspired soups and sides along with some delicious French desserts. Many of you asked for our recipes which we will publish in this and future newsletters.

Bon Appetit!

### *Soupe a la Citrouille – Pumpkin Soup* (Nancy Moyer)

¼ c. butter	½ t. ground ginger
1 c. chopped onion	¼ t. cinnamon
2 garlic cloves, crushed	3 c. chicken broth
¾ t. curry powder	16 oz. solid pack pumpkin
½ t. salt	1 c. half & half
1/8 -1/4 t. ground coriander	1-2 T. pure maple syrup
1/8 t. crushed red pepper	

In a large saucepan, melt butter; saute onion and garlic until soft. Add curry powder, salt, coriander and crushed red pepper; cook for 1 minute. Add broth; boil gently, uncovered 15-20 minutes. Stir in pumpkin and half & half. Taste and add ginger and cinnamon to taste. Swirl in about 1- 2 tablespoons of pure maple syrup. Cook for 5 minutes. Serve warm or reheat to serve later. Yield: 6 cups.

### *Soupe a L'oignon Francaise – French Onion Soup* (Brianna Link)

3 large onion thinly sliced	1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
½ c. butter	1 tsp. salt
2 T instant beef bouillon or 6 bouillon cubes	½ tsp. pepper
4 c. hot water	

Homemade croutons or toasted bread and cheese (mozzarella, parmesan, and/or gruyere) for topping

In a large skillet cook onions in butter until lightly browned. In crock pot, combine browned onions with bouillon, water, Worcestershire, salt, and pepper. Cover and cook on low 4-6 hours. Top each bowl with croutons/bread and cheese. Makes 4 servings.

### *Soupe de Poulet au Vermicelle – Chicken Noodle Soup* (Arlene Peters)

Dice carrots (3) celery, onions. Put in crockpot. Add a large box of low sodium chicken broth. Add some water. Cook 1 hour or so. Add diced chicken and seasoning to your liking (I use salt substitute, pepper, poultry seasoning, thyme, paprika, parsley flakes). Add more chicken broth and water. Cook on high a few hours. Cook noodles in a pot on stove, drain. Add to the crock pot and cook a little longer. Add water or chicken broth to reheated soup.

**Save the date for our spring gathering – Thursday, May 8!**

## NOTES OF THANKS

*We are sincerely appreciative of your continued support of our community meals. Thank you for your most generous donation of \$120.00 for the St. Michael's Christmas Day Meal. This year, our in-person Christmas Community Meal served 112 people and we made 10 deliveries. There were 18 people who helped on Christmas Day. Thanks for being part of the team to help the people in the community who are alone at Christmas or have food insecurities. Thanks again for making a difference in our community!*

*Sincerely,*

Rocky & Cathy Griffo, Barbara Nemecek, and  
members of St. Michael's Community Outreach  
Team

*Thank you for your generous support of the Pennridge FISH Organization with your donations of \$846.00 and 626 pounds of food in 2024. It is with your support that FISH is able to continue its outreach to those in the Pennridge Community who are in need. Thank you again for your generosity.*

*Sincerely,*

Lori Zimmerman - President

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/3 – Dolores Bibic

3/5 – Shary Kissel

3/10 – Makya Milkowich

3/11 – Gordon Bosch

3/14 – Jacqueline Kemmerer

3/23 – Martin Milkowich

3/26 – Matthew Renner

3/30 – Ruby Moyer

**APRIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE:  
MARCH 17**

**ENDOWMENT**

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

**CONSISTORY**

Rick Moyer, *President*  
Marie Runkle, *Vice President*  
Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*  
Nancy Ziegenfuss, *Secretary*  
Chris Fosbenner  
Scott Huff  
Debbie Koehler  
Lori Milkowich  
Arlene Peters  
Jocelyn Ziegenfuss  
McKenna Milkowich, *Youth Representative*

**CEMETERY  
TRUSTEES**

Alex Potoczny  
Terry Weikel  
Jay Wenger

**CEMETERY  
CONTACT**

Carol Nase: 267-374-9045

*Consistory minutes are 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

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**Cindy Bibic**, Financial Secretary

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**Christopher Ziegenfuss**, Choir Director

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**Peter Ziegenfuss**, Handbell Choir Director

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





# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		<b>Prayer Shawl</b> 1:00 – 3:00pm  <b>Finance</b> 7:00pm	<b>Ash Wednesday Services</b> 11:30am & 5:30pm <i>St. Andrew's</i>  <b>Choir</b> 7:30pm	<b>Transitional Team</b> 7:00pm		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>Worship</b> 10:15am	<b>Bells</b> 7:00pm		<b>Lenten Services</b> 11:30am & 5:30pm <i>St. Stephen's</i>	<b>Choir</b> 7:00pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<b>Worship</b> 10:15am	<b>Bells</b> 7:00pm  <i>Newsletter Submissions due</i>	<b>Prayer Shawl</b> 1:00 – 3:00pm  <b>Consistory</b> 7:00pm	<b>Lenten Services</b> 11:30am & 5:30pm <i>St. Paul's</i>  <b>Choir</b> 7:30pm			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<b>Worship</b> 10:15am	<b>Bells</b> 7:00pm		<b>Lenten Services</b> 11:30am & 5:30pm <i>St. Andrew's</i>  <b>Choir</b> 7:30pm			
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Worship</b> 10:15am	<b>Bells</b> 7:00pm	<b>Prayer Shawl</b> 1:00 – 3:00pm	<b>Lenten Services</b> 11:30am & 5:30pm <i>St. Paul's</i>  <b>Choir</b> 7:30pm			