

NOVEMBER 2024



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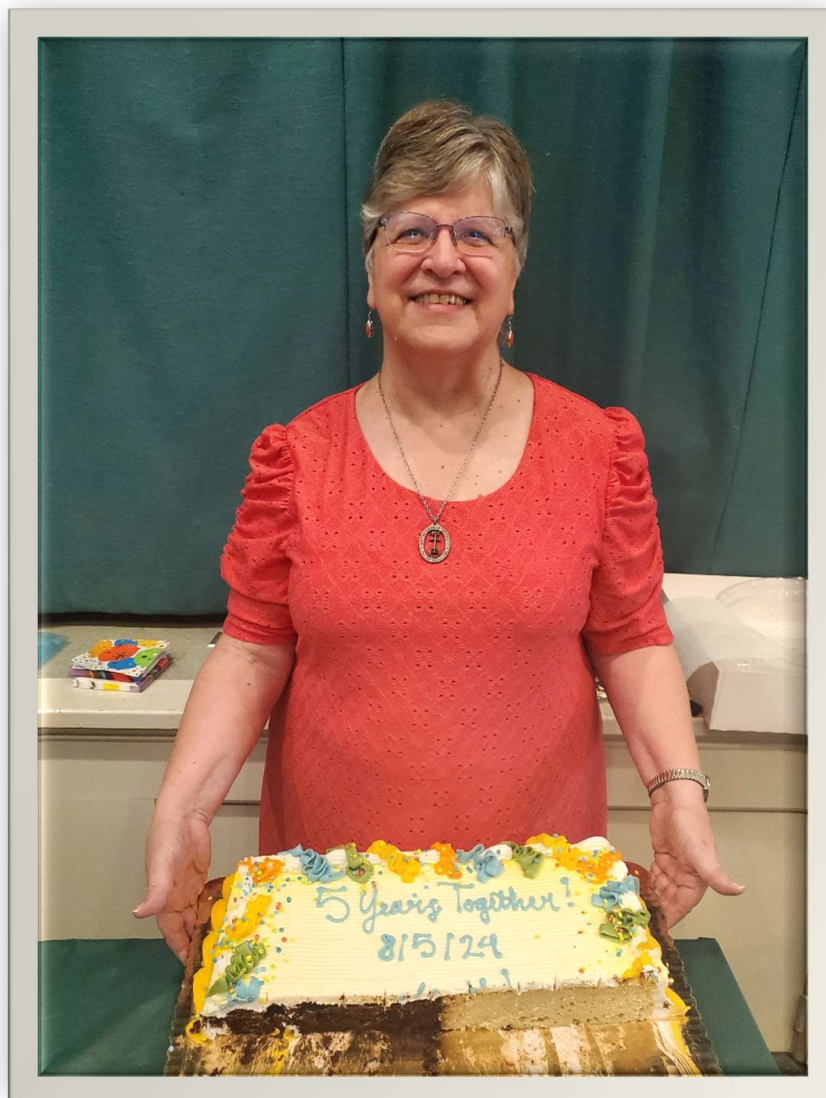
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOOD NEWS

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

***Celebrating Pastor Trudy's 5th Anniversary
at St. Paul's UCC!***



FROM THE PASTOR

All Saints Day is observed by the Western Church on November 1 and is generally celebrated in worship on the first Sunday in November. In the Protestant tradition, All Saints Day and All Souls Day (November 2) are times to remember those who have passed on, particularly those who have shaped our faith. At St. Paul's, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on November 3rd during our 10:15am worship service. Included in the worship service will be the reading of the names of loved ones within our church membership that passed away since November 2023 and a candle will be lighted in memory of the loved one. The congregation will also have an opportunity to name family and/or friends that have passed away over the past year and also light a candle in memory of their friend/family member.

One of my favorite Scripture passages I think of as *All Saints Day* approaches is Hebrews 12:1-2 ~ “So then, with endurance, let’s also run the race that is laid out in front of us, *since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us*. Let’s throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, ² and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith’s pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God’s throne.” When I think of the ‘saints’ – I think of the ‘*great cloud of witnesses surrounding us*’; I think of those that have gone before us in the faith and their trials and tribulations and how they may have responded to those challenges and struggles.

The Book of Hebrews in my Discipleship Study Bible is described as *addressing people who have been Christians for some time now, but who find that their earlier enthusiasm has faded and that their faith commitment is on the wane*. Hebrews aims to rekindle their vision. And Jesus, in this book of Hebrews, is described as *a trailblazer, a pioneer, who leads us to faith’s destination – who draws us toward our home with God*. We read Hebrews 12:2 again which says, ‘and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith’s pioneer and perfecter.’

The major purpose of Hebrews is to encourage, strengthen, and motivate its readers – to call them to faithfulness. I’m so thankful for the ‘great cloud of witnesses surrounding us.’ I’m thankful to recognize that they too faced difficult days – just like the Hebrews did so long ago. But they persevered in the faith – just as we do today. Our scripture stories have so much to teach us – especially in a time in our world, in our nation, in our communities, in our churches – when we continue to need encouragement, strengthening and motivation in our faithfulness. Jesus has blazed the trail – a pioneer! Jesus still calls and leads us to faith’s destination! Jesus is still the one who draws us toward our home with God. Praise be to God!

On the Journey with Jesus, *Pastor Trudy*

**Some details in the above letter were taken from Special Sundays: Liturgy for All Saint Day written by Rev. Anna Strickland.*

NOVEMBER 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 Liturgist: Gina Koehler

November 3 | 24th Sunday after Pentecost
All Saints Sunday; Daylight Savings Time Ends
 Scripture: John 11:32-44

November 10 | 25th Sunday after Pentecost
 Scripture: Mark 12:38-44

November 17 | 26th Sunday after Pentecost
Blessing of Operation Christmas Child Gift Boxes
 Scripture: Mark 13:1-8

November 24 | 27th Sunday after Pentecost
Reign of Christ Sunday
 Scripture: John 18:33-37

Worship and reflection resources: Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2, Trinity Sunday through Reign of Christ, Worship Companion, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor, © Westminster John Knox Press; Worship & Praise Songbook; Hymns for the Family of God; New Century Hymnal.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesday, November 27 | 7:30 pm
Hosted by: St. Michael's Lutheran Church
Preacher: Pastor Trudy Irving

The Sellersville churches will combine their voices for special service music.

Advent begins Sunday, December 1.

SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Middle & High Schoolers | Sundays | 9:00am
 Facilitated by Jeremiah Link. Meet in the Parlor.

Men's Group | Sundays | 9:00am
 Meet 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.

THE LIVING MUSEUM

The Living Museum has a new display covering Sunday School beginning with books of minutes from the early 1900's. There are large black and white photos from the late 1950's as well as photos from Harvest Home in 1942. Please take some time to browse and enjoy St. Paul's history on display.



We had a beautiful day for the Pennridge CROP Walk on Sunday, October 13th. It was one of the best days we had for the walk/rock. A big thank you to everyone who walked, sponsored the walkers, and donated through the *Count Your Blessings* calendar. Thank you to the Endowment Committee for their generous donation of \$1,500 to the CROP Walk. Please stay tuned for more information and the total amount raised.

Thank you again for helping to fight hunger one step at a time and helping with the long-term disaster relief from Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

Robin Frank, St. Paul's CROP Walk Coordinator

The Perkasio Historical Society would like to thank St. Paul's UCC for their generous donation of \$100. It was our pleasure to have your senior group, The Perennials, visit the carousel to learn about its history as well as the history of Menlo Park. Your donation will help keep our commitment to the community by preserving the history of Perkasio

Sincerely, Perkasio Historical Society – Jerry Treffinger, Treasurer

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1 – Emily Stokes
 11/2 – Dolores Wilhelm
 11/4 – Neil Clark
 Andrew Benner
 Jazlynn Weaver
 11/6 – Evan Jacoby
 Kelton Jacoby
 11/8 – Sam Clark
 Richard Wilhelm

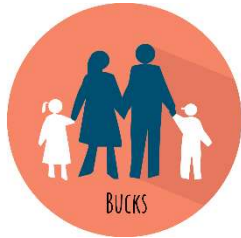
11/10 – Debbie Raudenbush
 Ava Milkowich
 11/12 – Bradley Delikat
 11/17 – Trevor Fuhs
 11/18 – Carter Fuhs
 Elizabeth Heath
 Juliette Benner
 11/19 – Bailey Bishop
 11/20 – Rebecca McNeff

11/21 – Iain Murray
 11/22 – Annabelle Benner
 11/26 – Lori Milkowich
 Holly Weideman
 11/27 – Evan Hendricks

CELEBRATING 40+ YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dunlap – November 5, 1955
 Mr. & Mrs. Alan Frank – November 6, 1976
 Rev. George & Carolyn Schmidt – November 13, 1966
 Mr. & Mrs. Alex Potoczny – November 13, 1971
 Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Runkle – November 19, 1966

COMMUNITY NONPROFIT UPDATES



Many thanks from Fostering Hope for providing us the space for our foster closet at St. Paul's. On Saturday, October 12, we served 53 children – our greatest Open Shop ever! At Open Shop events we open our doors to foster families to “shop” for clothing and other supplies without having to make an appointment.

Thanks to St. Paul's for a generous donation from the Endowment Fund! This will help us to purchase big ticket items such as car seats and strollers for recently placed foster babies and toddlers.

Look for more information about our non-profit organization in the coming months!



RamPacks

RamPacks has started this new school year with a BANG! We are currently serving 290 children K-12 in all schools in the district. We are still working out of the three pantries (Blooming Glen Mennonite, Souderton Brethren in Christ, and here), which continues to give us many challenges.

We are so thankful for our space at St. Paul's and for the members here who serve as packers and deliverers, as well as the personal donations from members and the regular donations of snacks. We are also thankful for the generous Endowment donation we just received! That money will provide many children with weekend and holiday food.

We are looking forward to a community food drive in February. Stay tuned for more details about that.

In the meantime, keep the RamPacks mission in your prayers and all of the local churches who continue to donate regularly to support it, as well as the children who look forward to getting one every week.



FISH will be open for indoor client shopping on November 1!

Gone are the days of the pandemic and all its restrictions. And soon, our carline and pre-packed boxes with limited menu choices will also go by the wayside. Pennridge FISH is happy to announce the "re-opening" of the actual pantry to our neighbors in need. They will once again be able to enter the pantry, grab a cart, and "shop" for their themselves with a little guidance from our volunteers. Pennridge FISH has gone through many changes in the past few years, including leadership changes this year that have brought back Paige Neuman as Operations Director, and ushered in a new, vibrant Board President, Dr. Lori Zimmerman. Please bear with us as we make this, hopefully, positive change to the way we operate. We are continually striving to create a more humane, dignified experience for the many households who frequent our food pantry and clothing outlet. We are currently seeking new volunteers, too! Please contact Paige: pantry@pennridgfish.org or 215-257-7616, if you are interested in volunteering with us.



HOLIDAY DINNER NEEDS

CANNED YAMS/SWEET POTATOES
CANNED FRUIT
CANNED VEGETABLES
CRANBERRY SAUCE
APPLESAUCE
GRAVY
STUFFING MIX

BOXED MASHED POTATOES
CANNED VEGETABLES
CANNED STRING BEANS
CREAM SOUPS
DURKEE-TYPE FRIED ONIONS
MUFFIN MIXES



Before He left this earth, Jesus gave us this command: *"Go and make disciples of all the nations."* You may struggle to follow that command on a daily basis, but once a year, there's an easy way to do just that!

Beginning October 27th, the familiar Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will appear in the Narthex enticing you to take one home with you. You will have the opportunity to fill the shoebox with small items such as toys, personal care items, and school supplies. But possibly more important than filling the box is the opportunity you will have to pray for the child who will receive it.

Each shoebox, prayerfully packed, is an opportunity for the Gospel to transform the life of a child, a family, and a community. Samaritan's Purse collects the Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts and delivers them around the world through churches and other ministry partners in over 100 countries. The local believers tell the boys and girls about Jesus Christ – God's Greatest Gift. Many of the shoebox recipients participate in The Greatest Journey program which is a follow-up evangelism and discipleship program where the children learn more about Jesus and how to tell their family and friends about Him.

Be sure to support this valuable mission project once again this year. With your gifts and your prayers, you can help make disciples of all the nations!

Boxes, labels, brochures containing packing instructions, and rubber bands to secure the boxes are available in the Narthex.

Endowment has donated \$300 to cover the shipping costs and Don & Janet Dunlap have offered to transport the filled shoeboxes again this year!!

Shoebox Collection Deadline: Sunday, November 17th



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES
HELP US SEND A HAPPY PACKAGE

We want the college students of our congregation to know that St. Paul's is thinking about them and praying for them. We plan to send care packages to them in time for finals week. We need your help!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for items needed for packing care packages for finals, as well as monetary donations to cover shipping costs. Add your name next to the item you would like to contribute.

Deadline for donations is Sunday, November 17th.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

ORDER & PAY BY DECEMBER 8TH
\$9.00 EACH - PAY TO ROBIN FRANK

Order your poinsettias by filling out the form below or sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please write your name(s) as you would like it printed in the bulletin. Cost is \$9.00 each for a beautiful flowering plant. Please pay Robin Frank directly by December 8th. If paying by check, make check payable to Robin Frank.

Your Name: _____

In Memory of: _____

Quantity: _____

In Honor of: _____

Quantity: _____

"To the Glory of God"

Quantity: _____



JOIN US SEASONALLY FOR A TIME OF FOOD, FUN, AND FELLOWSHIP!

Fall Gathering

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

11:00AM - 1:00PM

ST. PAUL'S UCC

104 GREEN ST. SELLERSVILLE

Join us for lunch and a presentation!

Gain an understanding of and ask questions about 2025 insurance changes and plans from expert, Paula Kinonen.

Enjoy a delicious catered meal from Bebe & Pop's Thriving Hive.

**RSVP BY 11/6 IN THE NARTHEX OR
STPAULSUCC.NET/PERENNIALS**

ENDOWMENT

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

CONSISTORY

Paul Koehler, *President*
Neil Clark, *Vice President*
Arlene Peters, *Secretary*
Jim Chrastina, *Treasurer*
Brandon Barndt
Marie Runkle
Rick Moyer
Scott Huff
Jocelyn Ziegenfuss

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

Brianna Link, Church Secretary

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

Jeremiah Link, Director of Christian Education

Nathan Gulla, Organist

Cindy Bibic, Financial Secretary

Christopher Ziegenfuss, Choir Director

Peter Ziegenfuss, Handbell Choir Director

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NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All Saints Sunday 10:15am Confirmation 3:00pm <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	Bells 7:00pm	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm Finance Mtg. 7:00pm <i>Election Day Polls Open 7:00am – 8:00pm</i>	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 10:15am	Bells 7:00pm	The Perennials 11:00am – 1:00pm Consistory 7:00pm	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Worship 10:15am OCC Shoebox & College Care Pkg Deadline	Bells 7:00pm <i>December Newsletter Submissions due</i>	Prayer Shawl 1:00 – 3:00pm	Bible Study 2:00pm Choir 7:00pm			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship 10:15am	Bells 7:00pm		Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:30pm at St. Michael's	<i>Thanksgiving</i>		