

St. Paul's Happenings

A Publication of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Manheim

December/ January 2022

Making a Difference Through the Love of Christ – to Know God, Love God & Serve God

A Night Like No Other

By Pam Herman, Church Administrator

Imagine what it was like over 2,000 years ago when a young woman very pregnant with her first child and her fiancé travel to Bethlehem to participate in a Roman census. Imagine their conversation as they walked – first in the countryside and then into a small, bustling city overrun with people. I'm sure that as they traveled, Mary and Joseph shared their dreams of what life would be like once the baby was born.

Imagine their anxiety as they realized that the baby was coming soon and they had no place to stay. Or maybe there was not panic, only faith that God would provide. I'm sure there was some fear and trepidation surrounding the birth of Jesus. After all, they were bringing God's only son, the Messiah, into the world. I'm sure there was great joy in knowing that God's promise for the Messiah was about to be realized as well.

And isn't it interesting that the lowly shepherds received the great news of Jesus' birth first. Just imagine what it must have been like to see God's Glory as the Angels sang of Jesus' birth and urged the shepherds to go see the child born in a manger. Imagine the proud parents receiving such visitors, knowing that it was likely that many others were to follow.

It truly was a night like no other – a baby born in a most humble way to a very young inexperienced woman. A baby that will one day, be revealed as our Lord of Lords, King of Kings, who erases our sins and gives us an eternal life. The Messiah is here – God with us! What an extraordinary gift. Thanks be to God.



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StPaulsuccManheim.org

Advent – a time of preparation

Below are excerpts from the 2022 Advent Celebrate issues:

"The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! We know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God." – Advent 1

"At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians, he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all,

especially the poor and meek of the earth. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near." – Advent 2

"We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us." – Advent 3



3 Ways to Worship

As we go into cold and flu season, St. Paul's UCC continues to offer 3 ways to worship:

- ◆ In person in the Sanctuary @ 9:30 am on Sunday mornings.
- ◆ Listen Live from our parking lot on Sunday mornings @ 9:30 am. Simply tune into FM 88.1 to hear the entire worship service.
- ◆ Watch our service LIVE online – go to our website, stpaulsuccmanheim.org/online-sermons.

Holy Communion

- ◆ The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served every Sunday in December & January.
- ◆ Communion services will be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday, December 21 and again on Wednesday, January 18**. Both services are held at 1:30 pm in Hoffer Auditorium.



December/January Scripture Readings

Sunday, December 4 – Advent 2:

Isaiah 11:1-10/Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19/Romans 15:4-13/St. Matthew 3:1-12

Sunday, December 11 – Advent 3:

Isaiah 35:1-10/Psalm 146:5-10/James 5:7-10/St. Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday, December 18 – Advent 4:

Isaiah 7:10-16/Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19/Romans 1:1-7/St. Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday, December 25 - Nativity of Our Lord:

Isaiah 52:7-10/Psalm 98/Hebrews 1:1-12/St. John 1:1-14

Sunday, January 1, 2023 – Christmas 1:

Isaiah 63:7-9/Psalm 148/Hebrews 2:10-18/St. Matthew 2:13-23

Sunday, January 8 – Baptism of Our Lord:

Isaiah 42:1-9/Psalm 29/Acts 10:34-43/St. Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 15 – Epiphany 2:

Isaiah 49:1-7/Psalm 40:1-11/1 Corinthians 1:1-9/St. John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 22 – Epiphany 3:

Isaiah 9:1-4/Psalm 27:1, 4-9/1 Corinthians 1:10-18/St. Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday, January 29 – Epiphany 4:

Micah 6:1-8/Psalm 15/1 Corinthians 1:18-31/ St. Matthew 5:1-12

Looking Ahead to the Holiday Season

Advent, the season to vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, began on Sunday November 27 and continues until Christmas Eve!

Here are a few of the upcoming holiday events to celebrate the Advent/Christmas Season:

Decorating Party

Celebrate the season in a big way as we prepare the church for the upcoming holiday season and for the Breakfast with Santa on Friday, December 2 @ 5 pm.

We'll begin the night with a light supper and then move onto decorating the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and other areas of the church.

It's so much fun – hope to see there!

Share your Family Creche

In Advent, members and friends of St. Paul's are invited to share their family Creche to be placed in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall windowsills. A sign up sheet is available on the table outside the Sanctuary, or call the church office at 717.665.2447.

It's so exciting to see each of the manger scenes displayed – one even has a few cats as part of the scene! Come, see, and experience these sites of the season.

Gift Cards

Looking for some stocking stuffers or an easier way to shop this Christmas? No worries – pick up a Gift Card Order Form on the table outside the church office, complete it and return with payment to the Offering Donation Box no later than Sunday, December 11. You'll have your gift cards the next Sunday!

Proceeds benefit the St. Paul's UCC Mission Team.

Breakfast with Santa & Christmas Giveaway

St. Paul's Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Giveaway will be held here at St. Paul's on Saturday, December 3 from 9-10 am.

Bring the kids, grandkids and friends out for a fun time and a great breakfast. The kids will meet with Santa – bring your phone and/or camera so you can capture the moment! Each child will receive a goody bag and there will be a craft for families and of course, there's a pancake breakfast which will be available as a sit-down meal or takeout.

St. Paul's Christmas Giveaway will be held at the same time for any children who needs hats, scarves, gloves or school supplies.



Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship

Come and worship the newborn king on Christmas Eve at the 7 & 11 pm worship services. Both services will feature candle lighting and the sights and sounds of the season. A special surprise will be unfolded as well! Celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ surrounded by the warmth of friends and family as only St. Paul's UCC can provide!

And if the Christmas Eve schedules don't work for you this year, St. Paul's UCC offers a Christmas Day worship service @ 9:30 am. This will be a brief but beautifully meaningful worship service celebrating Jesus' birth.



Women's Fellowship

First, we greet you with a hearty and grateful thank you for your complete support of our free take-out Turkey Dinner for our community and to honor our Veterans on November 5. We served about 200 dinners, which was fantastic. Our special thanks to Jerry Weller, and Sandy & Josh Bareford who did the cooking; to our ladies, who baked/provided the cupcakes; the parking lot crew who kept the traffic in order; the runners who delivered the dinners to those who were unable to come in to get their dinners; those who boxed the dinners and kept everything going in an orderly manner, which were received with many, many thanks. Our special thanks to those who contributed financial donations to help offset the cost of this endeavor. You were all wonderful as you stepped up in this way to serve our Lord!

We are now in the process of buying gift cards to support our church family who are in nursing/retirement facilities, in order to

give them some joy over the Christmas holiday and into the New Year.

We are still selling our cookbooks, so if you want to give a great gift for Christmas, etc. just let us know. The price is \$10.

Since winter is on the horizon and that means snow, we will not be having meetings in December-March. However, get ready for a Spring Sub Sale!

As we approach the holidays, be sure to remember our homebound members with cards, phone calls and visits, if at all possible. Remember, they cannot get out, and they look forward to hearing from you.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a great New Year! We have been blessed in many ways and have much to be thankful for.

In His Love,

June Y. Smith &
Dorothy Drumheller



Pies for Christmas

Pumpkin pies will be available for purchase to pick up in time for Christmas on Sunday, December 18 following worship. The cost is \$12 each for a 9" pie and proceeds benefit various Women's Fellowship projects including the FREE Turkey Dinner!

The pies will be made on Saturday, December 17 with Jerry Weller as lead chef! With Jerry as head chef, you know they'll be good – so be sure to orders yours as soon as possible – there won't be extras!

To place your order, stop by the table outside the church office – payment is due at time of order.

Last day to order is Sunday, December 11.

Inclement Weather Info

In case of inclement weather, be sure to call the church office at 717.665.2447 (after 8 am on Sundays) for service or event changes or cancellations. Postings will be on WGAL, WGAL.com and our website: www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org.

Sermons and bulletins will always be available on the website.

A New Pictorial Directory

It's been over 13 years since our last pictorial directory was published! Some of us may have changed a bit since then and then there are others that aren't even in the old version – including Pastor Bill & Cheri Long!

On Sundays starting Sunday, December 4-mid January, we will be taking family photos during coffee hour for the new directory. We're doing things a bit differently this year – we are not using a company to create the directory. So there's no high pressure sales pitch to encounter as you have your photo taken. And don't feel you have to dress up to have your picture taken. The idea is to be yourself, and include as many families as possible so that new members and friends can easily identify those who attend St. Paul's UCC!

Missions

The December Mission of the Month is Teen Central.

Teen Central provides Manheim Central kids a safe and attractive youth facility with volunteers and staff oversight. Christian volunteers engage the students as mentors and positive role models. And there are many social events, like Fall Fest, that foster positive relationships and healthy behavior. All this while learning life skills and having spiritual input. Please use your December special envelope to support Teen Central. For more information, go to www.teencentralmanheim.org.

The January Mission of the Month is UCC Homes. UCC Homes has been providing gracious retirement living in the south central PA area since 1965. A full continuum of care is available for people of all faiths and life experiences. UCC Homes is a non-profit organization that focuses on creating a comfortable, caring and productive lifestyle for their residents. Please use your January special envelopes to support UCC Homes.



Food Pantry Update

The food pantry serves many families in need in the Manheim Central School district. Current needs are:

- cereal
- crackers
- toilet paper
- canned soup
- egg noodles
- juice
- Spam
- paper towels

Please drop your donations off directly at the food pantry at 334 W. Gramby Street, Manheim. Drop off times are Monday & Thursdays 9 am-1 pm or call Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.664.1097.



Proof of Light

On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, “It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven’s ‘Hymn to Joy’ is joyous. If a man were to say, ‘It is not joyous to me,’ he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidity. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself.”



FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast is typically held on the third Saturday of each month from 8:30-10 am in St. Paul’s Fellowship Hall. The Breakfast features a hot entrée with a side serving of fruit and a beverage and is available either as a sit-down meal or take out meal.

In December, the schedule is changed as the breakfast becomes part of the Santa Breakfast held on Saturday, December 3 from 9-10 am. The main entrée on the menu is Pancakes with sausage.

The regular schedule resumes in January. The breakfast will be served on Saturday, January 21 from 8:30 – 10 am.

For more information about the FREE Community Breakfast, please check out our website at www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org or contact Sandy Bareford at 717.341.5931 or by email at sandybareford@gmail.com.

Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Highlights of the meeting include:

Memorial Gifts & Endowment:

Endowment Fund is up about \$20,000 in October due to recent stock market activity. An extra withdrawal of \$10,000 was made in October for operating expenses.

Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: October mission, Church World Service Blanket Appeal, income was \$1,111.

Operating: Farm show income was \$5,416 with expenses at \$4,095 with a \$1,320 profit.

Capital: \$4,300 ahead of 2021 giving.

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ Spiritual Council will be reviewing job descriptions
- ◆ Pleasant View is now open for monthly communion services.

Committee Reports:

Property Board-Property Board hopes to have the Memorial Garden doors installed by Christmas; Manheim Water & Sewer Authority is updating meters – the church will need to complete updates for compliance.



New Business:

- Waiting for a refund from our old Worker's comp insurer. Should be released after audit is processed.
- A Copier proposal was received. A new copier will be installed; the monthly cost is \$15 less than current expense each month.

Open Discussion: None

Next meeting date is Tuesday, December 20 @ 7 pm.

Council packets are posted:

- On the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall
- In the 2nd floor hallway
- In the church office for your review.

If you would like a copy, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or by email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29 following the 9:30 am worship service.

Please plan to attend this important business meeting.

Information to be included in the Annual Report from all committee chairs is due to the church office no later than Thursday, January 5, 2023.

Contact Us

Contact the church office at 717.665.2447 if you are hospitalized or in crisis during weekday hours. For emergency weekends, please call the church office and leave a message. Messages are monitored daily and your call will be returned shortly.

2023 Budget Information



The Budget Committee began meeting in early October. The proposed budget was approved by Church Council in November and a Budget Congregational Meeting has been set for **Sunday, December 11 following the 9:30 am worship service.** Please plan to attend.

Your 2023 Giving Envelopes are available to pick up on the table outside the church office. If you would like a set of giving envelopes or give by direct withdrawal, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or by email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

Finally, thank you for your dedicated support of the ministry here at St. Paul's UCC.

December 2022

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

 <h1>December</h1>				1 5:00pm Ist Thursday 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran	2 5:00pm Decorating Party 	3 9:00am Breakfast with Santa 
4 Advent 2 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	5 7:00pm Property Board	6	7 6:30pm Bible Study	8 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 Advent 3 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Budget Congregational Meeting 11:30am Coffee Hour	12	13 7:00pm Women's Club of Manheim Meeting	14 6:30pm Bible Study	15 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	16	17 9:00am Pie Making
18 Advent 4 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Pie Pick-Up 10:30am Coffee Hour	19	20 6:00pm Spiritual Council 7:00pm Church Council	21 6:30pm Pleasant View Communion Service	22 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran	23	24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 
25 Christmas Day - Office Closed 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 	26	27	28	29 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran	30	31

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Happy New Year! 11:00am One Worship 12:00pm Pork & Sauerkraust Dinner 	2 8:30am Office Closed 7:00pm Property Board	3	4 6:30pm Bible Study	5 8:30am Annual Report Deadline 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran	6	7
8 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	9	10 7:00pm Women's Club of Manheim Meeting	11 6:30pm Bible Study	12 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17 6:00pm Spiritual Council 7:00pm Church Council	18 1:30pm Pleasant View Communion Service 6:30pm Bible Study	19 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	20	21 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast 
22 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	23	24	25 6:30pm Bible Study	26 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 5:30pm Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	27	28
29 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting 10:30am Coffee Hour ANNUAL MEETING	30	31				

WINTER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

*Birthday &
Anniversary Blessings
to all celebrating their
special day in
December & January!*



Worship Attendance

10/30 – 91 11/6 – 84
11/13 – 71 11/20 – 73



Christian Symbols

Advent Colors

One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form, and we look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age.

Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ child.

Requests for Prayer

For prayer requests, please contact Joan Hess at 717.665.4705. Our homebound members will remain on the list permanently as a reminder to keep these individuals wrapped in prayer and to remember them with cards, phone calls, and visits.

Susan Gates	Nancy Gible	Nancy Lishman	Maybelle Martin
Terry Myers	Jane Moyle	Andre Ressler	Burt Savitz
Bob & Joanna Schreiber		Michael Shelley	Julia Shreiner
Eric Smeltz	Phyllis Smeltz	Linda Steiner	Doris Stroud
Ozzy Fetter*	Gary & Linda Hauze*		Lamar Dourte*
In the Military: Jessie Dutt			



A Thank You Note



Thank you to our church family for all of the cards received to celebrate our son, Michael's special 50th birthday.

We do appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness given to our family.

Larry, Sylvia & Michael

Bible Study Begins Jan. 4

The Kingdom of Heaven is near – are you ready?
Jesus' ministry was intensely personal – He lived among the common people, He welcomed men and women whom the religious leaders rejected, He called individuals to follow Him, and He touched the needy and healed them. Yet His message was direct and demanding, one so little understood today and yet so desperately needed: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew has the key that unlocks kingdom truths and prepares us so we will be ready for the day of His coming. It's a study we all need to do. – from *The Coming of God's Kingdom* by Kay Arthur/Peter deLacy.

The Matthew Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, January 4 and is held every Wednesday @ 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to join the study group, simply pick up a study guide on the table outside the church office and attend!

Hope to see you soon!



Book Club – February 6, 2023

The next meeting of St. Paul's Book club will be held on Monday, February 6, 2023 @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.

The book up for discussion in February will be one that many are familiar with – *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Using *The Gospel according to Harry Potter* as a guide, Pastor Bill Long will lead the discussion time.

There's plenty of time to reread and refresh yourself with the story if you have the book. If you would like to participate and need a copy of the book, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447.



Bell Ringing to Benefit Salvation Army

Every year, members of St. Paul's withstand the cold and windy conditions of December to Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army. Believe it or not, funds raised stay within the Manheim community to benefit those most in need.

St. Paul's day to ring the Bell in front of Longenecker's Hardware on Doe Run Road in Manheim is Tuesday, December 13 from noon-8 pm.

Two volunteers are needed for each two hour time slot – please sign up on the table outside the Sanctuary to participate in this wonderful outreach ministry opportunity. Together we are making a difference through the love of Christ for all to Know God, Love God, and Serve God!

Thanks for taking the time to serve in this very meaningful way!



Communication Deadlines

St. Paul's Happenings is printed monthly except for the December/January & July/August combined issues. The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication. **The February issue deadline is Sunday, January 15, 2023.** Bulletin announcements are due to the church office by Wednesday mornings @ 8 am.

St. Paul's Staff & Leaders

Staff:

Pastor – The Rev. Bill Long

Church Administrator – Pam Herman

Organist – June Smith

Chancel Choir Director – John Degler

Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman

Praise Team Coordinator – Steve Smith

Custodian – Mark Lowe

Kitchen Managers – Sandy Bareford & Jerry Weller

Council:

Ministers – All Church Members

Lynn Brewer – Secretary

Karen Brandt – President

Rick Conley – Vice President

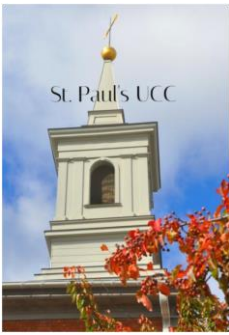
Dani Fair – Assistant Treasurer

Ron Forry

David Ludwig

Gretchen Miller – Treasurer

Karen Weiss



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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Phone: 717.665.2447

www.StPaulsuccManheim.org

Christmas and New Year Blessings to you from the Staff @ St. Paul's UCC!

Isaiah 9:6

Wonderful Counselor

**MIGHTY
GOD**

Everlasting Father

Prince of Peace