

Opportunities to Know God, Love God & Serve God

- ◆ Lenten Meals will begin next Wednesday, February 25 @ 6 pm w/worship to follow @ 6:30 pm. New Voices Vision Team will serve Cheeseburger Soup with Crusty Bread. [Lenten Meals/Worship](#) will continue on Wednesdays until March 25.
- ◆ [Date Change for the Book Club](#) will now be held next on Monday, March 2 @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Pick up your copy of "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho to read and prepare for discussion at our next meeting.
- ◆ The **Fellowship Breakfast** will be held on Thursday, February 26 @ 8:30 am @ Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Pam Herman at 717.665.2447 by Monday, February 23.



From Pastor Bill Long:

If you have questions about anything you've heard today, please feel free to contact us. We'd love to talk with you and get to know you! Pastor Bill Long's office hours are Monday-Thursday 9 am-1 pm. For other times, call the church office at 717.665.2447.

If you need Pastoral Care: If you are hospitalized or in crisis, please notify the church office at 717.665.2447 during weekday hours, or for **emergency** weekends, please call the church and leave a message - messages are monitored daily and your call will be returned shortly.

Church Calendar

Today: 7:00 pm [Ash Wednesday Worship Service](#)
Thursday: 7:00 pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran Church
Friday-Sunday: Women's Retreat @ Camp Hebron
Saturday: 8:30-10 am [FREE Community Breakfast](#)
10 am Simply Yoga
Sunday: 9:30 am [One Worship](#)
10:30 am [Coffee Hour](#)

St Paul's United Church of Christ

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A vertical poster for Ash Wednesday. The top half has a purple background with a white cross in a black circle at the top. Below it, the word "ASH" is written in large, white, serif capital letters, and "Wednesday" is written in a white, cursive script below it. The bottom half of the poster has a white background with a black and white photo of a cross in ash. The text "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Psalm 51:10, NIV" is written in a mix of serif and cursive fonts. To the right of the photo, a quote by Thomas Merton is written in white text: "The cross, with which the ashes are traced upon us, is the sign of Christ's victory over death." Below the quote is the name "– Thomas Merton". At the bottom right, the text "Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ Ash Wednesday ♦ February 18, 2026" is written in white.

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a pure heart,
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Psalm 51:10, NIV

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– Thomas Merton

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Ash Wednesday ♦ February 18, 2026

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WELCOME to ST. PAUL'S

Making a Difference through the Love of Christ to
Know God ♦ Love God ♦ Serve God

Prelude "What Wondrous Love" - Jordan
♦ **Hymn #489** "Pass Me Not"

♦ **The Ten Commandments**
P: You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself any idols. You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not lie. You shall not covet.

Hear What Our Lord Jesus Christ Said:
P: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and great commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments rest all the law and the prophets.

♦ **The Prayer of Confession**
L: God of depths, searcher of hearts,
P: Lead us into this holy time of Lent so we can let go of that which pulls us from your path. Give us the courage to persist in prayer, excel in kindness and walk gently on the earth. Heal the wounds we carry, forgive the errors we commit and lead us to new life. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy and forgive us. Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes
♦ **Hymn #488** "Just As I Am" (Celebrate Insert)
Prayers of Intercession
Reading of Scripture (Celebrate Insert) [Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#)/[2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10](#)/[St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#)
Sermon "Psalm 51" - Pastor Bill Long

♦ **The Confessional Questions**
♦ **Hymn #539** "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"
♦ **Benediction**
♦ **Postlude/Offering** "Praise and Sing" - Smith
♦ All who are able may stand

Announcements

Welcome! It's so great to worship with you!

Worship Assistants:
Music Provided by June Smith
The Altar Flowers are placed to the Glory of God.

Offering Options: Your offering is a part of worshipping God. St. Paul's offers several ways to give your offering:

- ♦ Drop your envelope in the offering plate as you leave church today.
- ♦ Mail your offering to the church.
- ♦ If you use online banking, use the Bill Pay option.
- ♦ Or set up direct withdrawals – contact the church office at 717.665.2447 for more information.

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry here @ St. Paul's UCC!

Lenten Meals & Worship

A light Lenten meal followed by Worship will be held on Wednesdays, February 25-March 25 beginning @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Worship begins @ 6:30 in the Bright Chapel/Library.

Mission of the Month

The February Mission of the Month is [the Manheim Central Food Pantry](#) which helps to feed our neighbors who are in need. Please use your February special envelope to support those living in the Manheim Central School District that are struggling to feed their families. Needed foods as listed in the newsletter may also be donated and placed in the hallway near the kitchen.

Inclement Weather?

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 can also be found on WGAL, WGAL.com and on our website. Sermons and bulletins will always be available online on our website.

Prayers of the People



Please pray: Hold us together, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Amen.

Today's Prayer: Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Amen.