

St. Paul's Happenings

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

October 2026

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

A Harvest of Gratitude By Pam Herman

The colors and beauty of autumn remind us that every season carries evidence of God's goodness. As we enjoy cooler days and changing leaves, may we pause to give thanks for His provision and share our blessings with those around us. – Oct '26 ChurchArt Online

As I write this, it is the first day of fall, it's rainy and only about 60 degrees outside. It is a harbinger of the weather to come - cooler, possibly wetter, and sometimes gray. But I can see that the leaves are already starting to turn and give up their magnificent colors. Soon it will be time to turn in our flip flops, shorts and tank shirts for shoes with socks, warm sweaters, coats, and long pants. And I agree with the first paragraph above, it is time to give thanks to God, for He has been so great to us!

Last year at this time, I wrote about Hearing from God and the need to renovate our spaces. And now that very renovation is now mostly finished, with more work to be done in the Archive Room! And God has been so good throughout this renovation! I have seen His handiwork throughout the different projects and I have also seen how God is calling our people to work together as one for a common good!

In this Harvest of Gratitude, I feel you all need to know some of the things that I witnessed throughout the renovation as the love and care for this place we call St. Paul's has been truly an inspiration to me:

- The way that everyone and everything has come together to make this project happen has been so awesome to witness first hand and there is no doubt that God has been right in the midst of it all. From the way the rental property sale went through as we were beginning to plan budgets for the project, to the people and teams involved in doing the work, to those who went above and beyond to give their first fruits in this effort has been nothing short of amazing! I can honestly say that anything anyone on the various involved teams envisioned for this project turned out to be so much better and more than any of us could have imagined. That's truly God working here!



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A Harvest of Gratitude Continued

- And everyone involved in the project, from those who helped to clean out, to prepare the budgets for approval, to those who approved the project, to those who did the work, scheduled the work, and gave us these beautiful spaces – I can't thank you all enough! And it was a true joy to hear some of the people while they were working – such camaraderie with great work ethic and skill! And the teamwork was just fabulous!

- While there's still some things to be done yet – like blinds being placed, and décor/furniture to add, the results of the renovation are awe-inspiring! The hallways, the 3 C's Café, Fellowship Hall, and the spaces in between are absolutely beautiful and so welcoming. Upstairs the hallways and areas in between are so open, warm and welcoming! And the offices – WOW! Now these spaces truly work well for both myself and our pastor!

- It even looks like we have a new elevator! And the stairways look so new and inviting!

There's so much to be thankful for, that it can't be done in a newsletter article!

A Dedication and Harvest of Gratitude will be held to dedicate these new spaces, and to give thanks to God on Reformation Sunday, October 25 during and after worship! Please plan to attend and celebrate with us!

Later in the spring of 2027, we plan to dedicate the Archive Room and honor our Softball Teams as well. Look for more information coming soon.

Now we can turn to thanking God for His provisions and share our blessings with those around us. How that will work is something the New Voices Vision Team is working on.

We also invite you as members to be in prayer for ways we can be a blessing to others in the church, and in the Manheim community.

God is so Good! Thanks be to God!



Feel free to enjoy a delicious cup of Whiff Roasters coffee in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings after worship! You'll have a chance to grab some tasty treats, and mingle and get to know a great group of people that make up the heart of St. Paul's. You'll even have a chance to chat with Pastor Bill Long.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated next on World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2026.

A Communion Service, open to all, will also be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday, October 21 @ 1:30 pm.**

Also, if you worship from home and need communion elements, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447.

October Scripture Readings

Sunday, October 4 – Pentecost 19: Isaiah 5:1-7/Psalm 80:7-15/Philippians 3:4-14/St. Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 11 – Pentecost 20: Isaiah 25:1-9/Psalm 23/Philippians 4:1-9/St. Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18 – Pentecost 21: Isaiah 45:1-7/Psalm 96:1-13/St. Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, October 25 – Reformation Sunday: Jeremiah 31:31-34/Psalm 46/Romans 3:19-28/St. John 8:31-36



Fall Happenings @ St. Paul's

A Work Day will be held on Saturday, October 3 from 9 am-Noon. Come on out and help us get the grounds ready for the winter months and do some more clean-out in the church. Baked goods and coffee will be served as well, so feel free to stop by and help out!

Bible Study

The Wednesday Night Bible Study will continue on Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm with a study on the minor prophets. (There will be no Bible Study on Wednesday, October 7 due to the Farm Show Parade.) Study guides are available to pick up – see Pam Herman for more details.

Communion @ Pleasant View

A Communion Worship Service will be held in Pleasant View's Hoffer Auditorium on Wednesday, October 21 @ 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 17 from 8:30-10 am in Fellowship Hall.

On the menu this month is Scrambled Eggs, Bacon and Toast as well as Tater

Tot Casserole served with fruit and beverage. To help out at the breakfast, please feel free to contact Erica Hoffman at 717.203.1449 or by email at ejhoffman826@gmail.com.

Fellowship Breakfast

The Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Thursday, October 22 @ 8:30 am @ The Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Claire Reed at 717.951.4325 by Monday, October 19 if you plan to attend.

Women's Fellowship

The next meetings of Women's Fellowship will be held on Thursday, October 29 @ 1:30 pm in St. Paul's 3 C's Café. See page 4 for more details.

A Harvest of Gratitude

On Reformation Sunday, October 25, we'll dedicate our newly renovated spaces before, during, and after the 9:30 am worship service. You won't want to miss this!

Check Out Our Website

Be sure to check out our website for up to date event information, or for information on cancellations or delays due to weather.



All Saints' Sunday



All Saints' Sunday will be celebrated at St. Paul's during the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday November 1, 2026. This is the day that we honor and remember the saints who have gone on before us – those whose faith and lives have pointed us to Christ.

Join us in worship as we give thanks for their witness.

If you would like to remember your loved one who passed away since last All Saints (November 2, 2025), please contact the church office at 717.665.2447/stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net with the name of your loved one, their birthday and date of death as well as their relationship to you. **Please do so by Sunday, October 18.**



Women's Fellowship

Thank you for your support of our recent sub sale. (Pick-up is on Thursday, October 1 @ 1-3 pm in the 3 C's Café.) You came through once again!

We are now making our final plans for our upcoming **Veteran's Dinner to be held on Saturday, November 7 @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.** We want to let you know so you will be able to plan ahead. All Veterans are invited along with their spouse or friend.

I have had many verbal thanks from several of our homebound members when they hear from us with a card or telephone call. They love to have contact with us! Please keep remembering them.

If you have been knitting hats and scarves, you may bring them along to the meeting. It would be nice to know how many sets we have at this time. As you can see, we've been busy beavers working for the Lord!

Wouldn't you like to be a part of that? Just as we do today, believers in Jesus need support and encouragement and the importance of meeting together with fellow believers to pray, praise God and enjoy fellowship together. There is no admission fee or dues, because we receive the showers of blessings for working for the Lord. You don't want to miss out!

See you at our next meeting on Thursday, October 29 @ 1 pm in the 3 C's Café!

In His Love,
June Smith & Dottie Drumheller

Mission of the Month

The October Mission of the Month is Church World Services' Blanket Appeal.

Imagine because of a weather disaster or act of violence, you have nothing left and no place to go! That's where CWS' Blanket Appeal steps in to help! A blanket can keep you warm, can act as a form of shelter, and when experiencing such a loss, it can serve as a sense of hope.

You can help to restore hope to someone who has nothing – give to the Blanket Appeal by using your October special envelope. Together we can make a difference to those who need something so simple as a blanket.

Food Pantry Update

Food assistance is available to anyone living in the Manheim Central School District through the Manheim Central Food Pantry. Contact is Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.664.1097.

Current needs are:

- Beef Stew
- Canned Chili
- Canned Potatoes
- Canned Sliced Beets
- Garden Produce
- Chef Boyardee Pastas
- Diapers, Sz. 5-6
- Baby Wipes
- Pull-ups
- Plastic and Reusable Grocery Bags

Be sure your donations are not expired, opened, or used. For more info, go to their website:

<https://manheimcentralfoodpantry.org/>

Special Music & Video/Sound Team Help Needed



If you would like to provide special music, accompaniment is available through our organist, June Smith, or by music video or loop music.

To schedule the date you wish to provide special music, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 and let us know if you need accompaniment, what dates you prefer and the name of the piece and the composer.

Additional team members are needed for our Sound and Video teams as well. Training is available - contact the church office if interested in serving.

Thanks so much for considering sharing your special talents in worship!

Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, September 22, 2026. Highlights are shared before the minutes are approved by council at their next meeting, when corrections to details may occur.

Endowment Fund: \$25,300 in gifts have been received year to date. Also Lancaster County has reassessed our rental property from \$156,000 to \$357,200 effective 2027.

Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: \$396 was received in July for Bible2School and \$488 for OCWM; and in August, \$466 for Teen Central and \$548 for OCWM.

Operating: \$7,691 was received in July; \$11,196 in August for Current Fund – the budget is \$10,417/month.

Capital: \$3,113 was received in July; \$708 in August for the capital fund.

August's giving was \$10,000 over last year's giving.

Pastor's Report:

- The last Sunday in October (October 25) will be a renovation dedication day.

Committee Reports:

- **Property Board:** A Window at the back of the church has been found to be rotted and needs

replaced. Also, the window sills on the south side of the church are in disrepair due to direct sunlight and will be capped in order to preserve them.

Old Business: The new Music Job Description will take the next steps regarding publicizing.

New Business: The Budget Committee will consist of Gretchen Miller, Karen Brandt, and Pam Herman.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, October 20 @ 6 pm.

Council minutes are available through the church office at 717.665.2447.



Stay Safe Online

Another scam alert on tv – this time, the criminals were targeting church members. As telephone, texting and email scams become more and more numerous and sophisticated, please know that here at St. Paul's:

- **NO ONE** from the church or staff member (even Pastor Bill Long) will call, text, or email you asking for donations using gift cards, bitcoin, or other electronic payment methods.
- Any special giving campaigns will always use our regular giving options using your giving envelope with cash or check **made out to St. Paul's UCC** only to be dropped into the donation box, through the mail, or dropped off in person to the church office.

Any doubts/questions, contact the church office at 717.665.2447.



Connect With Us!

Please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net to update your address, phone number, email address or a change in your life situation.

If you or a member you know is hospitalized or in crisis, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447. Please leave a message and your phone number and someone will return your call shortly. Messages are checked daily.

Did you know that you have access to an Instant Church Directory app for your phone?

Download the app to your phone or device by going to the App Store or Google Play, and search for Instant Church Directory. Install the app on your device. You will then be prompted to enter your email address which must be the same email address the church has on file. And voila – you now have access to St. Paul's Pictorial Directory, where you can:

- Change your photo
- Change your address
- Message/Email a friend
- Look up an address or phone number.
- Even use the map feature to find the address!

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am Simply Yoga 1:00pm Sub Pick-Up 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	2	3 9:00am Work Day 10:00am Simply Yoga
4 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	5 7:00pm Property Board 	6 6:00pm New Voices Vision Team Meeting	7	8 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	9	10 10:00am Simply Yoga
Manheim Farm Show →						
11 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	12 	13	14 6:30pm Bible Study	15 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	16	17 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast 10:00am Simply Yoga
18 Newsletter Deadline! 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	19	20 6:00pm Church Council	21 1:30pm Pleasant View Communion 6:30pm Bible Study	22 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	23	24 10:00am Simply Yoga
25 Reformation Sunday 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	26	27	28 6:30pm Bible Study	29 9:00am Simply Yoga 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	30	31 10:00am Simply Yoga 

OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Blessings to all celebrating an October Anniversary or Birthday!

Worship Attendance

Total attendance = those who worship in the Sanctuary, those in the nursery and those viewing the service online.

8/30 – 92

9/6 – 80

9/13 – 94

9/20 – 68

Christian Symbols



The Christian church has long been symbolized by a ship. St. Ambrose described the church as a ship with the cross as its mast, and others have compared salvation to being drawn out of the sea of death into the safety of the church (ship).

Indeed, many large churches are constructed to represent a big boat, with the main worship space called the nave — Latin for ship.



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.

Jean Gates Mary Sue Herr Jay Hess Bev Hockenberry Jim & Erica Hoffman Tim Hoffman Bridget Irons
Ernest & Pat Kohler Jane Laube Maybelle Martin Jane Moyle Richard Moyle & Lynne Shoemaker Jessica Mullen
Glen & Delores Mumma Joanna Schreiber Betty Lou Stoner Scott Christ* Linda Coe* Wayne & Camilla Conrad*
Kimberlyann Davis* Wyatt Dull* Dr. Eugene Engle* Terry Gyenes* Stephen H.* Blakely Kling*
Jace Laboranti* Rachel Martin* Shelly Mellinger* Karen Miller* Verdella Stauffer* Patrick White*
Teen Central & Bible2school kids/staff
In the Military: Jessie Dutt & Ben Ryan

PRAY MORE
worry less

October 2026

Puzzle!

NAMES OF GOD

Every name of God tells us something about his power, love and care for his people. Use the Scripture clues to uncover just some of these special names.



F _____ (Matthew 6:9)

A _____ and O _____ (Revelation 1:8)

I A _____ (Exodus 3:14)

Y _____ (Exodus 6:2-3)

G _____ M _____ H _____ (Genesis 14:19)

G _____ A _____ (Genesis 17:1)

R _____ (Psalm 18:2)

J _____ (Psalm 75:7)

F _____ (Psalm 18:2)

H _____ O _____ (Isaiah 40:25)

Answer key: Father, Alpha and Omega, I AM, Yahweh, God Most High
God Almighty, Rock, Judge, Fortress, Holy One

Give Thanks with Music



What you need:

- 3 small coffee cans with lids
- 1/2 cup dry pinto beans
- 1/2 cup unpopped popcorn
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- Heavy-duty tape
- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons for decorating



What you do:

1. Put the beans in one can, the popcorn in another, and the rice in the third.
2. Secure the lids and tape around the rims.
3. Cover the cans with construction paper and glue it in place.
4. Decorate the cans with markers or crayons.
5. Shake the cans to hear the different sounds, then use them to make joyful music for the Lord!



Rest for the Soul



Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.

Communication Deadlines

St. Paul's Happenings is printed monthly except for the December/January and July/August combined issues.

The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication.

The November 2026 issue deadline is Sunday, October 18, 2026. 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

Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman

Custodian – Mark Lowe

Kitchen Manager – Jerry Weller

Council:

Ministers – All Church Members

Karen Brandt – President

Lynn Brewer

Danette Fair

Ron Forry

Sue Frederick

Mike Givler - Secretary

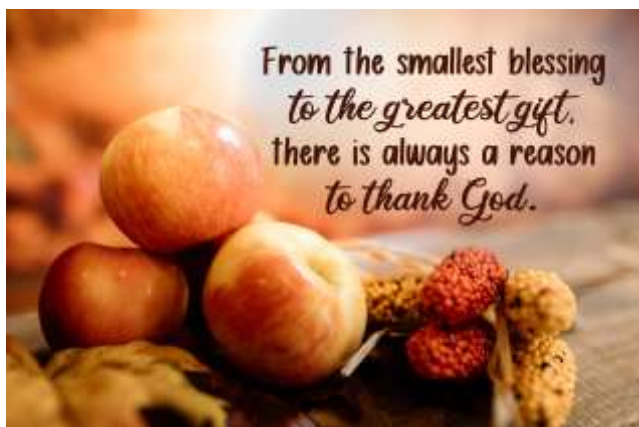
Gretchen Miller – Treasurer

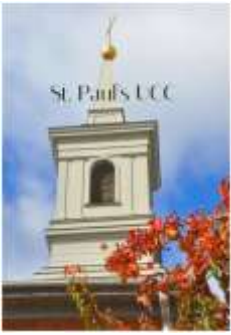
Carolyn Peters – Vice President

J. D. Young

Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:

The Rev. Bill Long





St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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