



# St. Paul's Happenings

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

February 2026

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

## Be Still

I was awake early this snowy Sunday after a phone call with Pastor Bill concerning the weather. It was quiet & peaceful. It seemed like there was just me in the world at that moment. The only thing that seemed to be moving was the snow outside. As I sat there thinking about not being in church that morning, the words "Be still, and know that I am God" came to mind. I was certainly being still at that moment but how does "being still" translate when life isn't so quiet?

In a world that screams for our attention, demands our action, and fills us with worry, God's voice cuts through the noise with a simple, profound command: "Be still". This isn't about becoming inactive, but about ceasing the internal frantic pace, pushing the "pause button" on our anxieties, and quieting our hearts so we can truly hear Him.

"Be still."  
Stop.  
Push the pause button.  
Take a step back.  
Breathe.  
Step away from the chaos.  
"Be still and know that I am God."

When we stop striving and resting in His presence, we begin to know Him. We realize that the weight of the world and our personal crises aren't ours to carry; they rest on the shoulders of the Creator, our refuge and strength. He is in control, even when nations rage and kingdoms crumble around us.

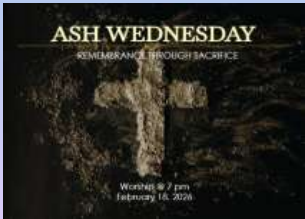
Be still.  
  
Winter Blessings,  
Karen Brandt, Council President



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VISIT US ONLINE AT

[StPaulsuccManheim.org](http://StPaulsuccManheim.org)

# Lent - Spring Cleaning for the Soul

Ash Wednesday is February 18, 2026, and it marks the beginning of the 40 days of Lent. Lent hints of spring, a time when the earth begins to awaken from a winter's nap, and new growth bursts forth all about us.

More personally, it is an opportunity to enter into a springtime for our spirit. For centuries Christians have used the 40 days of Lent to seek spiritual growth. Sincere repentance, a changing of heart, casting off old sinful practices and seeking to commune with our creator help us go in the right direction. Spending serious time in silence and prayer focuses our attention. Reading spiritual literature, becoming more knowledgeable about the New Testament, meeting in small groups with other Christians to share personal stories of faith can all be immensely stimulating. Joining with others to serve the helpless and hopeless can strengthen our spiritual life.

Lent is a time to let God do "spring cleaning" within us. It's our opportunity to allow God to help us toss out the "stuff" that hinders us and then freshen up the "new creature" we are meant to be as followers of Christ.

- Published in Church Art Online  
February 2026

Here at St. Paul's, there are many opportunities to begin your spring cleaning journey:

- Ash Wednesday Worship @ 7 pm on February 18
- Lenten Meals and Worship on Wednesdays February 25-March 25 beginning @ 6 pm
- Serve @ the FREE Community Breakfast on Saturday, February 21 @ 8:30-10 am
- Help Clean Out on Sundays after Coffee Hour – see Pam Herman for more info.



## Coffee Hour

Feel free to enjoy a delicious cup of Whiff Roasters coffee during worship! 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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated every Sunday in February.

A Communion Service, open to all, will also be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on **Wednesday February 11 @ 1:30 pm.**

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



## February Scripture Readings

**Sunday, February 1 – Epiphany 4:** Micah 6:1-8/Psalm 15/1 Corinthians 1:18-31/St. Matthew 5:1-12

**Sunday, February 8 – Epiphany 5:** Isaiah 58:1-12/Psalm 112:1-10/1 Corinthians 2:1-16/St. Matthew 5:13-20

**Sunday, February 15 – Transfiguration of Our Lord:** Exodus 24:12-18/Psalm 2/2 Peter 1:16-21/St. Matthew 17:1-9

**Ash Wednesday, February 18:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17/Psalm 51:1-17/2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10/St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Sunday, February 22, Lent 1:** Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7/Psalm 32/Romans 5:12-19/St. Matthew 4:1-11



# February Happenings @ St. Paul's

## Hebrews Bible Study

Bible Study will continue studying Hebrews on Wednesdays, February 4 & 11 @ 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 21 from 8:30-10 am.

On the menu this month is Pancake Casserole, Sausage, Baked Yogurt served with a beverage and fruit.

If you would like help out at the breakfast, please feel free to contact Erica Hoffman at 717.203.1449 or by email at ejhoffman826@gmail.com.

## Ash Wednesday Worship

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. A worship service with Imposition of Ashes begins our Lenten journey and helps us to remember that we are dust and to dust we will return. The worship service begins at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

## Lenten Meals & Worship

Once again, St. Paul's will host Lenten Meals and Lenten Worship on Wednesdays, February 25-March 25. The meal begins at 6 pm in Fellowship

Hall and Worship will follow at 6:30 pm. Worship will be held in a new location – stay tuned for more information!

Hosting the meals are:

Feb. 25 – New Voices serving Cheeseburger Soup with Crusty Bread  
March 4 – Bible Study hosts, menu to be determined

March 11 – Council hosts with meal to be determined

March 18 – Women's Fellowship hosts with meal to be determined

The March 25 meal needs a host! If you and some friends would like to host, please contact Pam Herman in the church office at 717.665.2447 or stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net. Thank you!

## Fellowship Breakfast

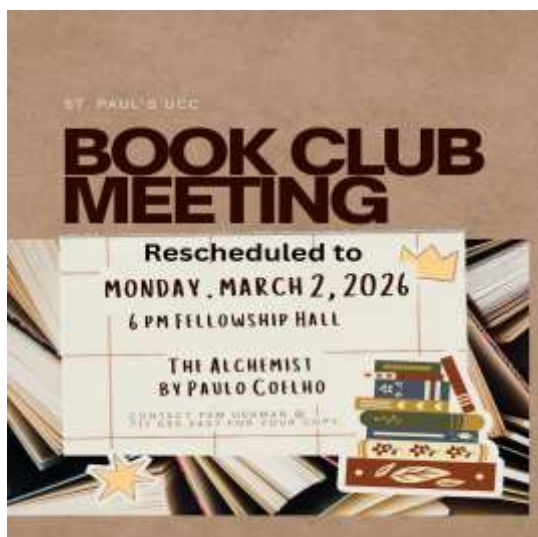
The Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Thursday, February 26 @ 8:30 am @ The Kounty Kitchen Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Pam Herman by Monday, February 23.

## Check Out Our Website

For the latest info and weather updates, please visit our website found at [www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org](http://www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org).



# March & April Events



**Book Club has been Rescheduled:** Get your copy of The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho about a shepherd boy who travels from Spain to Egypt in search of buried treasures in the pyramids. We'll now meet to discuss on Monday, March 2 @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.

**Holy Week @ St. Pauls** begins with a Preparatory Worship Service on Wednesday, April 1 @ 7 pm. A Maundy Thursday Worship Service with Communion will be held on Thursday, April 2 @ 7 pm. A Community Good Friday worship service will be held at Pleasant View's Hoffer Auditorium on Friday, April 3 @ 2 pm. And our Easter Worship Services will include an Early Easter Worship Service @ 8 am in the Memorial Garden and the 9:30 am Easter worship service with a continental breakfast served in between the services.



## Women's Fellowship

The ladies of Women's Fellowship will serve the March 18 Lenten Meal. Stay tuned for what that meal will look like!

Due to the winter weather, we ladies will not meet again until March 2026. See you soon as Spring is just around the corner!

In His Love,  
June Smith & Dottie Drumheller

## Inclement Weather Policy

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 also be on WGAL, WGAL.com and our website at [stpaulsuccmanheim.org](http://stpaulsuccmanheim.org).

Sermons are available online on our website as well.

## Mission of the Month

**The February Mission of the Month** is the Manheim Central Food Pantry which serves families in need living in the Manheim Central School District. Registered clients receive food and personal care items once each month, based on family size. The pantry offers an assortment of canned food, pre-packaged food items, toiletries, and household products. In addition, baked goods, fresh produce, frozen meats, and dairy products are offered when they are available. For more information, go to [www.manheimcentralfoodpantry.org](http://www.manheimcentralfoodpantry.org).

Please use your February special envelope to financially support the Food Pantry. See the article below for ways to support the pantry with your food and soup donations.

## Food Pantry Update

In December, 212 total households were served or 667 total individuals. New Households served were 32 or 93 new individuals.

Please be sure your donations are not expired, opened, or used.



Current items needed are:

Diapers, applesauce, beef stew, canned chili, canned chili, mandarin oranges, and baked beans as well as plastic or reusable grocery bags.

Contact is Ruth Ellen Brown at 717.665.1097 or drop off non-perishables in our 1<sup>st</sup> floor hallway near the kitchen.

Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry! Fourth quarter donations were 47 lbs. of food, for a total of 1,011 lbs. in 2025.

## Souper Bowl

Bring your soup donations to worship in February and place them on the altar. All donations will benefit the Manheim Central Food Pantry.

## Mission Team Going to Deep Roots in 2026!

**Save the Date:** The Mission Team is once again planning a trip to Deep Roots in Earleville, MD leaving on Wednesday, June 17 and returning home on Saturday, June 20, 2026. Deep Roots is a farm used as a shelter for those families experiencing homelessness in the Maryland area. Families are mentored and receive needed services to support their return to stable employment and housing situations before leaving Deep Roots. This is a great opportunity to serve God – look for a planning meeting in late April. Contact Erica Hoffman at 717.203.1449 or [ejhoffman826@gmail.com](mailto:ejhoffman826@gmail.com) for more information.

**Thank You from Deep Roots:** Thank you for your very generous donations of food for 45 people in July. Your support and thoughtfulness means so much to our families and staff. Peace from the folks at Deep Roots

For more information on Deep Roots, go to [www.deeprootsinc.org](http://www.deeprootsinc.org).



## Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, January 20, 2026. Below are highlights of that meeting. Please note that these highlights are shared before the minutes are approved by council at their next meeting, when corrections to details may occur.

**Endowment Fund:** Value of the fund increased in 2025 by 27.2 percent, thanks mostly to the sale of the rental property at 32-34 N. Main St.

### Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: \$591 was received for the December Mission of the Month, which was the Manheim Ministerium Assistance Fund and OCWM giving was \$1,380.

Operating: \$12,778 was received in December for current operating expenses.

Capital: \$1,568 was received in December for the capital fund.

### Pastor's Report:

- Discussion re: start time for next year's Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner – start time to stay @ 11 am.
- **The Annual Congregational Meeting will now be held on Sunday, February 8, 2026.**
- Pastor Bill has been very busy with hospital visits this week.
- Council approved the idea of using the Bright Library as a

Chapel for some of the “smaller” worship services.

### Committee Reports:

- New Voices: see written report.
- Property Board

On the week of February 16, work will begin in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor large Sunday School room to be renovated into the 3 C's Cafe. The artifact case and softball trophies will be moved during the Fellowship Hall renovation. The plan is to display these in what used to be Akira's former office using clear glass in the window in the hallway just outside the Sanctuary.

**Old Business:** None

### New Business:

- Personnel Reviews will be performed by a sub committee.
- Spiritual Council will make up a Music Committee.
- In response to a letter, council has agreed to sell the choir gowns as well as the folding chairs with table arms.
- Council will host the March 11 Lenten Meal.

**Next meeting date is Tuesday, February 17, 2026 @ 6 pm.**

Council minutes are posted in the church office, on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bulletin board near the elevator.



## Thank You Notes

We would like to express our first “Thank You” to Pastor Bill for performing Alison's committal on a cold and windy November morning at the cemetery, also for his and Pam's visits and prayers with us upon Alison's passing. Thank you to the congregation for your cards and condolences also.

Our second “Thank You” is to Pastor Bill and Pam for their visit and prayers before Leon's back surgery, also Pastor Bill's hospital visit. Again “THANK YOU”.

- Deb and Leon Kleinfelter

Thank you to everyone who sent cards and well wishes for Jim. It will be a long slow recovery, but he is making some progress. He will be at Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital until Friday, January 23rd.

After that, he will be moving into nursing care until he is able to walk sufficiently and manage the stairs.

- Erica Hoffman

Thank you for supporting CWS and its programs. We are grateful to have you as a partner in Mission and Ministry. Your \$1,546 gift will help individuals and communities to rise with strength, resilience, and renewed hope. -Tiffany w/CWS

## Annual Meeting & Giving Information







The **Annual Congregational Meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 8** following worship. On the Agenda is the review of the 2025 Annual Report. Be sure to pick up your copy of the Annual Report on the table outside the church office.

As a result of several worship service cancellations, giving for the beginning of 2026 has been way down. You can make up your giving by “doubling up”, mailing your giving to the church office at P. O. Box 129, Manheim, PA 17545, using the Bill Pay option through your bank or set up Direct Giving through the church office so your giving isn't missed.



# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Epiphany 4 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>2</b> 7:00pm Property Board 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>5</b> 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00am Simply Yoga
<b>8</b> Epiphany 5 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting 11:00am Coffee Hour	<b>9</b> 6:00pm New Voices Vision Team Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1:30pm Communion @ Pleasant View 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>12</b> 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day 10:00am Simply Yoga 
<b>15</b> <i>Newsletter Deadline!</i> Transfiguration Sunday 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>16</b> Presidents' Day - Office Closed 	<b>17</b> 6:00pm Church Council	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 	<b>19</b> 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	<b>20</b> 5:00pm Women's Retreat @ Camp Hebron	<b>21</b> 8:30am FREE Community Breakfast 10:00am Simply Yoga
<b>22</b> Lent I 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:00pm Hope Served	<b>25</b> 6:00pm Lenten Meals & Worship	<b>26</b> 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am Simply Yoga





Blessings to all  
those  
celebrating a  
February  
Birthday or  
Anniversary!

## Worship Attendance

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

11/30 – 64 12/7 – 117 12/14-Snow

12/21 – 99 12/24 – 214 12/28 – 110

## Christian Symbols



**40**—In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension.

The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).



## 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.

Alex & Trish Bairos	Jay Hess	Bev Hockenberry	Jim & Erica Hoffman	Ava Hontz	
Bridget Irons	Maybelle Martin	Jane Moyle	Richard Moyle & Lynne Shoemaker		
Glen & Delores Mumma	Joanna Schreiber	Eric Smeltz	Menno & Betty Lou Stoner		
Barry & Scott Christ*	Linda Coe*	Wyatt Dull*	Dr. Eugene Engle*	Jona Green*	Stephen H.*
Blakely Kling*	Rachel Martin*	Karen Miller*	Verdella Stauffer*	Teen Central & Bible2school kids/staff	

In the Military: Jessie Dutt & Ben Ryan

# The Love God Desires

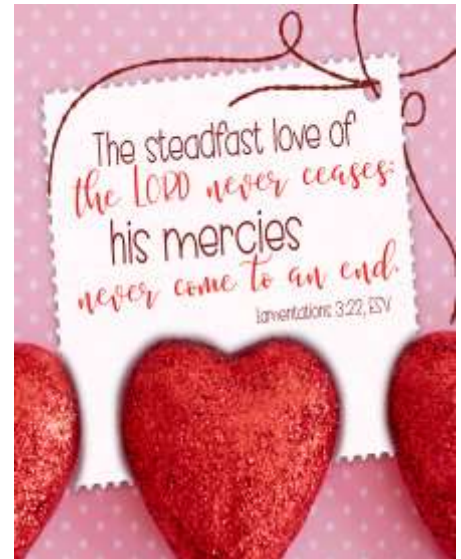
God’s love is never meant to stop with us; it’s meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, “If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God’s love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?

- Feb. 26 edition of ChurchArt Online



## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month before publication.

**The March 2026 issue deadline is Sunday, February 15, 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

Chancel Choir Director – John Degler

Bell Choir Director – Jim Hoffman

Custodian – Mark Lowe

Kitchen Managers – Jerry Weller

### Council:

Ministers – All Church Members

Karen Brandt – President

Danette Fair

Ron Forry

Mike Givler - Secretary

Gretchen Miller – Treasurer

Carolyn Peters – Vice President

J. D. Young

Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:

The Rev. Bill Long



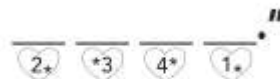
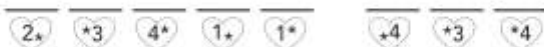
# Puzzle!

We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.  
Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE:



"



Jeremiah 31:3

Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

God  
demonstrates  
his own  
love for us...

ROMANS 5:8



God is  
LOVE.

1 JOHN 4:16



LOVE IS  
Action!

Love isn't just a feeling — it's something we do! This simple activity reminds us that acts of love, big or small, can grow and bless others.

What you need:

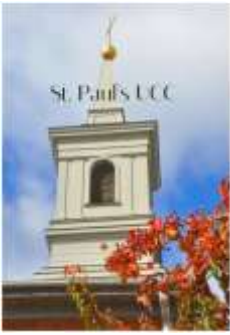
- Construction paper (brown for the trunk, pinks and reds for hearts)
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or crayons



What you do:

1. Cut a large tree trunk and branches out of brown paper and glue it onto a sheet of paper or poster board.
2. Use colorful paper to cut several hearts — these will be your "leaves."
3. On each heart, write loving actions like "share my toys," "pray for others," or "help clean up."
4. Glue the hearts onto the branches to create a full, love-filled tree.
5. Hang it somewhere visible as a reminder to put love into action every day!





## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

50 N. Main Street, P. O. Box 129

Manheim, PA 17545

Phone: 717.665.2447

[www.StPaulsuccManheim.org](http://www.StPaulsuccManheim.org)

