

Opportunities to Know God, Love God & Serve God

- ◆ A **Congregational Budget Meeting** will be held next Sunday, December 14 following the 9:30 am worship service. On the agenda is the presentation of the 2026 budget.
- ◆ The **Fellowship Breakfast** for December will be held on Thursday, December 18 @ 8:30 am @ Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant. Please RSVP to Claire Reed by Monday, December 15 if you plan to attend.
- ◆ **Christmas Eve Worship** will be held on Wednesday, December 24 @ 7 & 11 pm.
- ◆ **On Sunday, January 4, 2026 come celebrate the New Year with us!** We'll begin worship @ 11 am in the Sanctuary followed by a Pork & Sauerkraut meal in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up in the hallway outside the Sanctuary if you plan to attend.



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

Sunday: 9 am Prayer
9:30 am [One Worship](#)
10:30 am [Coffee Hour](#)

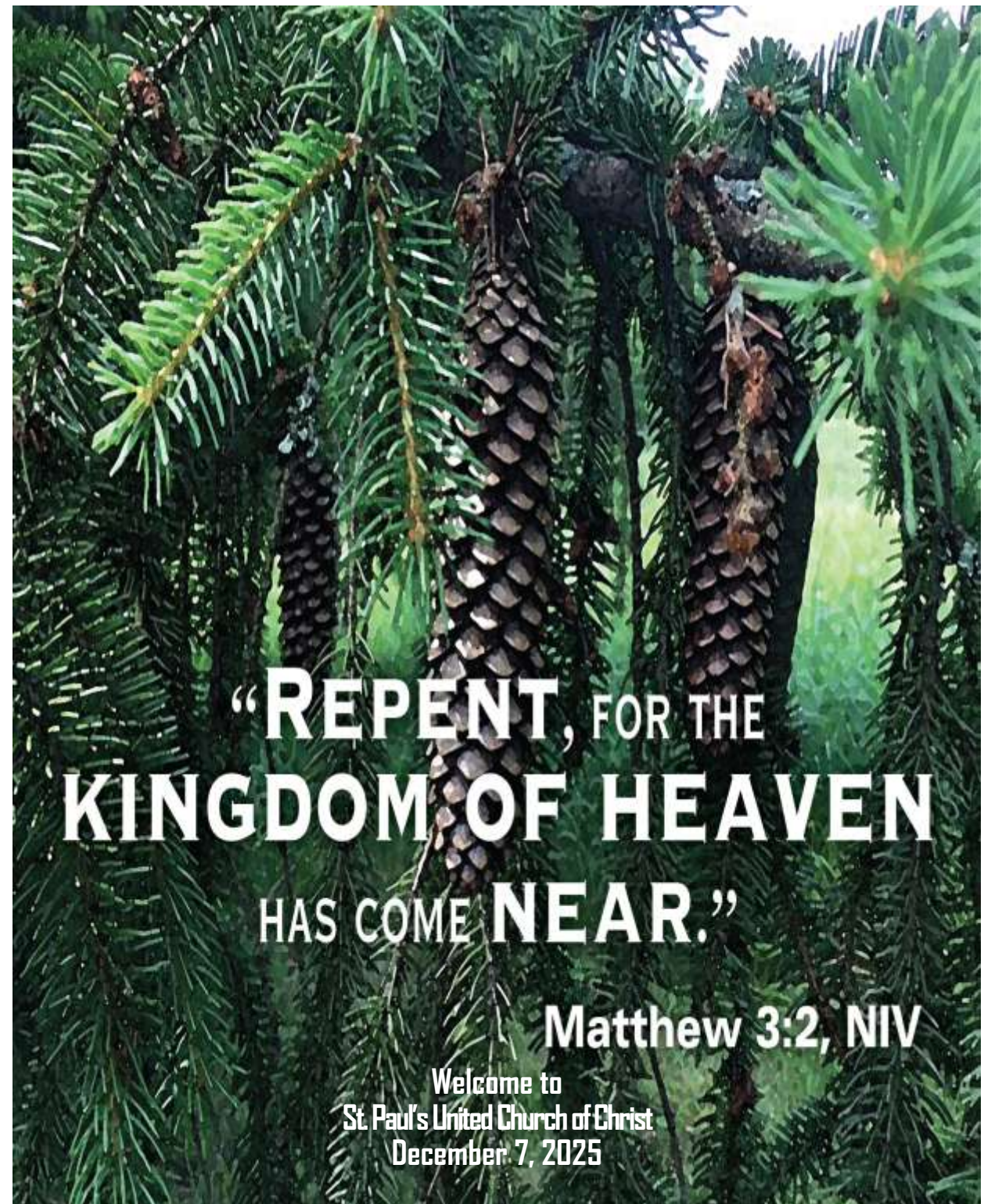
Wednesday: 6:30 pm Bible Study
Thursday: 7 pm AA @ Zion Lutheran
7 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Next
Sunday: 9 am Prayer
9:30 am [One Worship](#)
10:30 am Congregational Budget Meeting
w/ [Coffee Hour](#) to follow

St Paul's United Church of Christ

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December 7, 2025

WELCOME to ST. PAUL'S

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

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude/Call to Prayer/Prayer of the Day "Christmas Pastorate" - Hughes

Call to Worship ([Psalm of the Day](#)) Celebrate Insert Page 2

♦ **Hymn #245** ["O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"](#) See Hymn insert - Verses 1-2

Call to Confession/Prayer of Confession

P: Lord God, in your great love, save me from being exhausted when Christmas arrives. Spare me from the the let-down of the day after Christmas. Spare me from "tis the season to be jolly," for I am tired from all the preparations I have made. Free me to enjoy the wonder of Christ's birth, to cherish the simplicity of offering the gift of myself, to bow in grateful praise at the splendor of your love. May Christ be born in my heart again, and again. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

♦ **Offertory #815** "Praise God from whom all blessings flow...."

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn #243 ["Emmanuel"](#) (See Hymn Insert) Savannah Kingeo & Lori Roseberry

Prayers of Intercession Celebrate Insert Page 4

Confession of Faith - Colossians 1:15-20

P: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Reading of Scripture [Isaiah 11:1-10](#)/[Romans 15:4-13](#)/ ♦ [St. Matthew 3:1-12](#)

Sermon ["Prepare Your Heart"](#) - Pastor Bill Long

The Sacrament of Holy Communion See Communion Insert

♦ **Hymn #251** ["It Came upon the Midnight Clear"](#) See Hymn Insert

♦ **Benediction**

♦ **Postlude** "Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall Come" - Denton

♦ All who are able may stand

Announcements

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

Worship Assistants:

Greeters/Ushers: Kermit & Dottie Drumheller

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 donation box 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!

You're Invited to [Coffee Hour!](#)

Following worship, feel free to follow the crowd to Fellowship Hall to enjoy a great cup of Whiff Roasters coffee. Please stay for some scrumptious treats - there's something for everyone and you'll have a chance to get to know the people of St. Paul's UCC and Pastor Bill Long!

[Nursery Care](#)

The Nursery is available unstaffed for parents and children to use during worship as the service is livestreamed into the nursery. Coloring pages with the lessons for the day are also available as well.

Mission of the Month

The December Mission of the Month is the Manheim Ministerium's Assistance Fund. This fund is used to help our neighbors in need with emergency housing, heating, medical or transportation assistance. Please use your special envelope to support this ministry that greatly impacts our neighbors and makes a difference through the love of Christ for all to Know, Love & Serve God.

Prayers of the People



To update the prayer list, please contact Joan Hess at 717.665.4705.

Please pray: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. Surround all with care and consolation. Amen.

Today's Prayer: With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. Amen.

461 In Remembrance

This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. Luke 22:19

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The score is divided into several systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols are written above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the bass staff. The score includes an introduction, a main body of the hymn, and a concluding section. The lyrics are: 'eat this bread. heal the sick. In re-mem - brance of Me, drink this wine. In re-mem - brance of Me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of Me, pray for the time when God's own will is mem - brance of Me, o - pen the door and let your broth - er done. 2. In re - in, let him in. Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed; Drink and re - mem - ber, too, that'. The score ends with a 'RED Irregular meter' marking.

Chord symbols: A^b, E^b7^{sus}, E^b7, A^b2, A^b, A^b, C^m, D^b, D^b2, E^b7, D^b, D^b, B^bm, E^b, E^b7, E^b7^{sus}, F^m, E^m, E^b, D^b, G^b, D^b, E^b, A^b7^{sus}, A^b, C^m, D^bM⁹, D^b6, B^bm7, E^b, D^bM⁹, D^b6, A^b, B^bm7, E^b7, A^b7^{sus}, A^b, E, E², E, A^b, E, A^b.

Lyrics: eat this bread. heal the sick. In re-mem - brance of Me, drink this wine. In re-mem - brance of Me, feed the poor. In re - mem - brance of Me, pray for the time when God's own will is mem - brance of Me, o - pen the door and let your broth - er done. 2. In re - in, let him in. Take, eat, and be com - fort - ed; Drink and re - mem - ber, too, that

TEXT: Ragan Courtney
MUSIC: Beryl Red
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The Sacrament of Holy Communion

L: The Lord be with you. P: And with your spirit.

L: Lift up your hearts. P: We lift our hearts up unto the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. P: It is right for us to do so.

♦ Gloria Patri

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Prayer of Consecration

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Seraphic Hymn (Hosanna)

P: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth: Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy Glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

L: Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts of bread and wine, and bless us that as we receive them at this table, we may offer you our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. P: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again. Amen.

Hymn #461

["In Remembrance"](#)

Verse 1

Sharing of the Elements

♦ Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: We thank you God for this time together and these gifts to make us strong enough to stand fast in hope of the coming Prince of Peace; to make us tender enough to embrace each sign of new life, to make us bold enough to sing praise and carols to the whole world. To make us humble enough to work for the common good of rebuilding this community, and to make us loud enough or soft enough to touch someone's heart today and all through the week. God, let the Light of Christ shine in and through us. Amen.