

St. Paul's Happenings

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

September 2025

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

Hearing from God Part 2

Last month, I shared with you what I had heard from God to Clean Out, Update – You'll Grow! This month, I'd like to share with you what another member of our New Voices Vision Team heard from God about another endeavor we are discerning as a team.

Dani: "It was strange. Last fall, we talked in New Voices about seeking God's discernment of what our next direction would be. And our team had been focusing on praying and even asking everyone in the church to pray asking God what our next direction should be. And by March – nothing concrete, just what felt like silence. We talked about how it felt like it just wasn't there and we agreed to recommit to continue praying.

It happened when we were in the BLESS Lenten series, while reading about the chapter on Eat, that I began to hear it. In the book by Dave & Jon Ferguson, there's a section under Eat that talked about this thing called Dinner Church which all of a sudden, I just had to check it out. I called another member of our team to share my excitement – am I crazy, could this work, is it a real possibility? Seriously!!!! And when I talked with that other team member, they took it even further – checking it out online and together we found that a nearby church is actually doing this very thing.

Dinner Church is a lot like our FREE Community Breakfast and yet there are some very real differences. The meal can be either a breakfast, lunch, or dinner and can be held weekly or monthly. (This would be determined at a later date.) But the main difference for this meal, is that it is specifically for our neighbors who don't know God/Jesus yet to offer food, a chance to connect and offer care, and get to know our neighbors so that we can model what it means to be followers of Jesus, and build relationships with our neighbors. It isn't about getting to know our neighbors so we can invite them to church, it's about making the dinner church the actual worship service in the same way that Jesus invited people into His ministry.

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Hearing from God Continued

After a day or so, I began to have doubts – how can we pull this off with scant volunteers? How can we afford to do this? Will it really make a difference – will it grow the church? All these doubts started to make me rethink the whole idea. But then God intervened in such a profound way and yet I was clueless at first.

It was the third Lenten meal when we talked about Eat and right near the end of Pastor Bill's sermon, I noticed that someone in the group kept looking towards the library – she eventually got up and when she came back, there was a man and a little girl with her. She sat them down, gave them something to eat and somethings to entertain the little girl. After the sermon, many people sat down with this man and his daughter to get to know them and invite them to worship. I have to admit, sadly, that it didn't even dawn on me until the next day, how God was affirming the idea of having a Dinner Church! But the next morning, God basically "downloaded" all these positive thoughts and images of what this man needed, and how we could really get to know our neighbors and give God's support, love and care through a simple meal. He had literally shown me how Dinner Church could work in that one simple evening service and I almost totally missed it!

So at our next New Voices meeting, I shared what I had heard from God. How I/we don't know all the details yet, but it is clearly what God is calling us to do and we now are beginning to flesh out next steps in moving this toward a reality.

Pam: There is no doubt that God has truly blessed St. Paul's with many resources, people, and a beautiful facility. We are placed perfectly to do His Will to reach others right here in Manheim to know, love and serve Him. Please continue to keep this whole discernment process in your prayers – we are proof that not only is God clearly working to fulfill His purpose here at St. Paul's, but also that He hears our prayers and answers them – in His time of course!

Blessings,
Pam Herman & Dani Fair



Coffee Hour

Follow the crowd down to Fellowship Hall after worship and enjoy some coffee and light refreshments. You'll also have a chance to 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 too!

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated next on Sundays, September 7, October 5 & November 2, 2025.

A Communion Service will be held at Pleasant View Retirement Community on Wednesday, September 17 @ 1:30 pm in Hoffer Auditorium. All are welcome to attend.

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

September Scripture Readings

Sunday, September 7, Pentecost 13: Deuteronomy 30:15-20/Psalm 1/ Philemon 1-21/St. Luke 14:25-33

Sunday, September 14, Pentecost 14: Exodus 32:7-14/Psalm 51:1-10/ 1 Timothy 1:12-17/St. Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 21, Pentecost 15: Amos 8:4-7/Psalm 113/ 1 Timothy 2:1-7/ St. Luke 16:1-13

Sunday, September 28, Pentecost 16: Amos 6:1, 4-7/Psalm 146/ 1 Timothy 6:6-19/St. Luke 16:19-31



Fall Happenings @ St. Paul's

1st Thursday

Back to School is the theme for the September 1st Thursday @ St. Paul's UCC held on Thursday, September 4 from 5-8 pm. Students will receive a free pencil, eraser, and backpack tag and we will also have free water and snacks for all visitors including dogs.

Bible Study

The Wednesday evening Bible Study will begin again on Wednesday, September 3 @ 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We'll finish up our Psalm Bible Study starting with Psalm 126 and then move into Hebrews.

Where do you put your trust? What hope do you have for the future? The book of Hebrews has the answers – come find out more at Bible Study! All are welcome

Clean Up Work Day

A Clean Up Work Day will be held on Saturday, September 13 from 9 am-noon. Breakfast pastries and drinks will be available – meet in the Memorial Garden with your gloves and hand tools for your assignment for the day. And thank you in advance for all the ways you help to show God's love through our beautiful church building and grounds.

Outdoor Worship

Enjoy God's beauty as we worship together in the Memorial Garden on Sunday, September 14 @ 9:30 am. Janelle Heying will lead us in musical worship and Coffee Hour will follow in Fellowship Hall.

FREE Community Breakfast

The FREE Community Breakfast is back and will be held on Saturday, September 20 from 9-10:30 am. The menu includes pancake/sausage casserole or French toast casserole and bacon and fresh fruit, served with juice, chocolate milk or coffee.

Volunteers are needed – to help out or for more information, contact Erica Hoffman at 717.203.1449 or by email at ejhoffman826@gmail.com

Fellowship Breakfast

Come out to Kountry Kitchen Family Restaurant on Thursday, September 25 @ 8:30 am and enjoy good food with great friends.

Please RSVP to Claire Reed @ 717.951.4325 by the Monday before the breakfast if you plan to attend.

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And for more fun – Family Bingo Night

Come out to St. Paul's for some great family fun on Saturday, September 27 from 4:30-7 pm! We'll enjoy a Family Bingo Night in Fellowship Hall with lots of fun, food and prizes too!

Bring a \$5 or 5 lb. wrapped gift to be used as prizes as we play different variations of the family favorite game, Bingo!

Hot dogs and other snacks will be served @ 5:30 pm.

Bring your kids, grandkids, and other family members! Bring your friends too! The more the merrier!

See you at Family Bingo Night!





Women's Fellowship

I can't believe school is ready to start – where did summer go? Change is happening all the time within our group. We must try to adjust the best way we are able. Keep praying for all of us.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 25 @ 1 pm in Fellowship Hall. We have had our social time this summer @ The Shack, made some decisions for Fall, and now we need to put them in motion, so please try to attend.

Just a reminder, if you are knitting or crocheting hats and scarves for the Christmas Giveaway with the Santa Breakfast, that a supply of yarn is available for that purpose. See June. Keep supporting our homebound members. They are greatly appreciative and like knowing they have not been forgotten.

In His Love,
June Y. Smith and
Dorothy Drumheller

Chancel Choir News

It is that time of the church year that we consider resuming Chancel Choir. Many articles about the need for vocalists have been written in the past years without much response or success. So it simply comes to the following statement. If the congregation desires a choir we need people willing to sing and participate twice a month. Contact John Degler at degler@comcast.net or by phone 717.653.4053.

The Schedule: Rehearsal on Wednesday, September 24 @ 7 pm with Service on Sunday, September 28 @ 9:30 am.

Bell Choir

Are you interested? Bells will begin rehearsing again on Thursday evenings beginning September 4 @ 7 pm for ½ hour. We plan to perform monthly beginning with an October performance – usually on the 2nd, 4th, or occasionally the 5th Sunday in any given month.

No experience is necessary and you don't need to read music. The more ringers, the easier it is for a group to ring as we can 'spread the wealth' as far as the bells

needed to perform the specific piece of music. Only four things are needed: 1) Ability to tell your right hand from your left; 2) tell the difference between red, blue and green; 3) count to 4 (occasionally 6); 4) and ...put up with Jim!

Let Jim or Erica Hoffman know if you're interested at 717.898.8452 or by email at ejhoffman826@gmail.com the sooner, the better, so we can plan the music according to the number of ringers. Try something new and help us make beautiful music together.

Mission of the Month

The September Mission of the Month is St. Paul's Shepherd's Fund.

The Shepherd's Fund helps members and friends of St. Paul's during a time of financial difficulty with such things as housing, transportation, medical or utility assistance. All requests for assistance go through Pastor Bill Long. Please use your September special envelope to support the Shepherd's Fund that may help someone sitting next to you feel the love of God.

Save the Dates – Marimba Festival

Save the date for the Musser Marimba Festival Orchestra Concert. The 60-piece Marimba Orchestra will perform in Clair O. Musser's hometown, celebrating his contribution to the Marimba field. Heartland Marimba and the Lancaster Marimba Ensemble will collaborate to perform the first-ever Musser Marimba Festival held on Saturday, October 18 @ 7:30 pm @ Manheim Central Middle School, 261 White Oak Road, Manheim, PA. Tickets are available online and at the door and are \$30 or \$15 for students and seniors.

As part of the festival, a lecture on the life and influence of Clair Omar Musser by David Harvey and performance of a newly discovered Musser piece by Matthew Coley will be held on Wednesday, October 15 @ 6:30 pm @ the Old Train Station.

Food Pantry Update

Current needs for the Food Pantry are: fresh garden produce, diapers, applesauce, beef stew, canned chili, canned beets, rice sides, plastic and reusable bags.

Please make sure your donations are not expired, used, or unopened. Drop off your donations in the hallway near the kitchen.

Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 – there was no August meeting. Highlights are shared before the minutes are approved by council at their next meeting, when corrections to details may occur.

Treasurer's Report:

Benevolence: \$1,601 was received for St. Paul's Missions, the June Missions of the Month (MOM). OCWM giving was \$325 in June.

Operating: \$10,106 was received in June for current operating expenses.

Capital: \$1,309 was received for the capital fund in June.

Pastor's Report:

- 3 Baptisms and a marriage ceremony were held in July.
- Clean out in the large 1st floor Sunday School classroom has begun. See article on Cleaning Out on this page.
- A visitor expressed his appreciation for the beauty of our Sanctuary.

Committee Reports:

- New Voices: see written report.
- Property Board: no meeting in July or August. Ron received council approval to remove shrubbery in the area adjacent to the back parking lot – he will plant grass seed there when finished.

Old Business: An update was given re: the sale of the church rental property at 32-34 N. Main St.

New Business:

- Council discussed a plan in case June Smith is ill.
- An update was given re: the FREE Community Breakfast – the September breakfast is on for Saturday, September 20, and future breakfasts will be determined based on the success of the September breakfast.

Next meeting date is Tuesday, September 16, 2025 @ 6 pm.

Council packets are posted:

- On the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall
- In the 2nd floor hallway
- In the church office



Cleaning Out



You may have heard that the church is going to be embarking on a clean out-update-you'll grow campaign. Well it has already started.

There are a few items available already. Please note that we will announce in church that there are items available for anyone who would like to take them. There is a limited time (about 2 weeks) to request or pick-up these items if you are interested.

Right now, there are two square wooden children-sized tables with matching chairs (pictured above) that are available on a first come, first served basis. The items are in the 1st floor large Sunday School classroom just inside the parking lot entrance door. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 to arrange pick-up.

Other items will soon be available as well and will be announced first in church, will then be publicized and if not taken, will then be sold, given away or put out for disposal.

From the Church Office



Please contact the church office if you or a member you know is hospitalized or in need of care at 717.665.2447. If you call on the weekend, please leave a message, as calls are monitored daily and your call will be returned shortly.

If your address, phone number or email address changes, please remember to let the church office know as soon as possible. Thank you!



September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day - Office Closed	2	3 6:30pm Bible Study	4 9:00am Simply Yoga 5:00pm First Thursday 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 9:00am Prayer 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	8 6:00pm New Voices Vision Team Meeting 7:00pm Property Board	9	10 6:30pm Bible Study	11 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	12	13 9:00am Work Day 
14 9:30am Outdoor Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	15	16 6:00pm Church Council	17 1:30pm Communion @ Pleasant View 6:30pm Bible Study	18 9:00am Simply Yoga 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	19	20 9:00am FREE Community Breakfast
21 9:00am Prayer 9:00am Sub Sale 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	22 	23	24 6:30pm Bible Study 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25 8:30am Fellowship Breakfast @ Kountry Kitchen 9:00am Simply Yoga 1:00pm Women's Fellowship 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm AA @ Zion Lutheran	26	27 4:30pm Family Bingo Night 
28 9:00am Prayer 9:00am Sub Sale 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour	29	30				



Blessings to all with a September Anniversary or Birthday!

Worship Attendance

6/29 – 84 7/6 – 90

7/13 – 95 7/20 – 94

7/27 – 79 8/3 – 73

8/10 – 87 8/17 - 70

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

Christian Symbols



ALPHA MU OMEGA — The Greek letters that begin the words yesterday, today and forever remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever" (for example, Psalm 100:5, NRSV). What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!



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 Sue Frederick
Bridget Irons Becky Long
Richard Moyle & Lynn Shoemaker
Julia Shreiner Eric Smeltz
Barry & Scott Christ* Linda Coe*
Stephen H.* Blakely Kling*
Bible2School & Teen Central Kiids

Nancy Gibble
Jim & Mary Long
Glen & Delores Mumma
Phyllis Smeltz
Wyatt Dull*
Rachel Martin*
In the Military: Jessie Dutt, Ben Ryan

Jay Hess
Maybelle Martin
Joanna Schreiber
Menno & Betty Lou Stoner
Ted Eckert*
Karen Miller*

Bev Hockenberry
Jane Moyle
Michael Shelley
Jona Green*
Verdella Stauffer*

Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

WORDS:

GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,
YIELDS, US, LAND

ACROSS

3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.

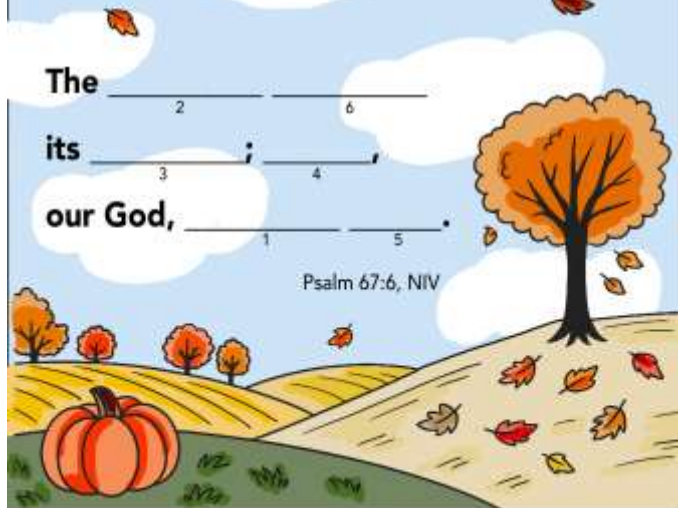
DOWN

1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.



The _____
its _____;
our God, _____

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV

Welcome Autumn

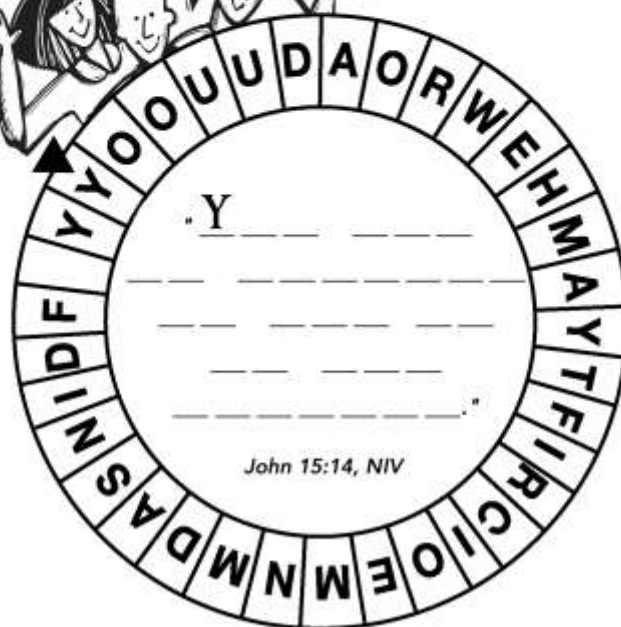


WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?



Beginning at the arrow and
moving clockwise, write every
other letter on the spaces below.



Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV



Thank You Notes

We thank you for donating to the Manheim Central Food Pantry. Your generous donation of 389.82 lbs. of food in the second quarter makes it possible for us to provide food to families in need within our Manheim Central Community. Your acts of kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated by those who use our pantry. We ask for your continued support.

– MC Food Pantry Board of Directors



A big thank you for being supportive to our Shelter. We value you as a Volunteer work group! We're delighted to have you as part of our community. Thank you!

- Deep Roots Family Shelter, Earleville, MD

Communication Deadlines

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

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

The October issue deadline is Sunday, September 21, 2025. 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

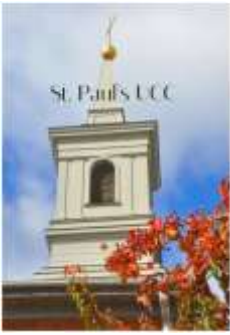
Carolyn Peters – Vice President

J. D. Young

Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:

The Rev. Bill Long





St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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www.StPaulsuccManheim.org

As we walk –
even through dark valleys – we're never alone.

God promises,

"I will walk among you and be your God."

Leviticus 26:12, NIV