Lighting Our Way
by Joan Hess, Council President

I know some of you get down this time of year as daylight lessens. However, we move from being thankful for the bounty of the harvest season to the “Season of Light.”

Jesus’ birth is our Hope! He brings us joy, peace and love.

We are aware of the unsettled world we live in, BUT, we need to focus on Jesus’ promise to transform our souls if we are tired and anxious to refreshing, peaceful souls. “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and Glorify your Father in Heaven.” – Matthew 5:16

God’s solution for a “dark world” is Jesus!

Apparentlly multiple changes may be on the horizon – shortages for needed products, losing jobs over personal beliefs, pandemic related issues, etc. Changing our outlook by focusing on the positive, instead of thinking about the darkness, focusing on seeing things this way – bright sparkling stars are beautiful, possibly seeing the Northern Lights, a bright moon in several phases, a falling star, etc. There is much beauty in the darkness! Let the white snow shower down on us to brighten our outlook on life!

God’s solution for a “dark world” is Jesus Christ. By his giving us a Savior who is the Light of our World, we are saved. The stars guided the shepherds and wise men to the manger. We are expected to carry His

Continued on Page 2
Light in us so we can help illuminate the “darkness.” We need to shine God’s light and love on others. When people look at us, they should be able to see what God’s doing inside of us. Let your life so shine. We can’t allow darkness to keep us down.

The Lord will see us through this and so much more. He has our hand! Just trust and follow.

Let’s focus on family and friends this holiday season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Let God’s light so shine and light your way and light our way. God lights the darkness for us! There is Magic in the air!

In His Name,
Joan Hess, Council President

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
Lighting Our Way
Continued from page 1

Exodus Bible Study

Genesis and Exodus and the three books that follow provide an intimate knowledge of God and His incomparable ways. Observing His relationship with His chosen people Israel will give you fresh insight into how, through Christ, you can live today.

You’re invited to the Exodus Bible Study, held on Wednesday evenings @ 6:30 pm starting on Wednesday, December 1. The study uses Kay Arthur’s “Teach Me Your Ways” and is an inductive Bible study meant to go deeper into God’s Word on a daily basis. All are welcome!

December/January Scripture Readings


January 23 – Epiphany 3: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10/Psalm 19/1 Corinthians 12:12-31/St. Luke 4:14-21


Inclement Weather?

In case of inclement weather, be sure to call the church office at 717.665.2447 (after 8 am on Sunday mornings) for service or event changes and cancellations. Postings will also be on WGAL, WGAL.com and our website: www.stpaulsuccmanheim.org.

Sermons and bulletins will always be available online on our website.
Celebrate the Advent/Christmas Season @ St. Paul’s

St. Paul’s UCC invites you to come and experience the many sights, sounds, and tastes of the Advent and Christmas seasons:

**Advent:**
Advent began on Sunday, November 28. Each week a new candle will be lit on the Advent wreath signifying the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that Christ brings to us as we anticipate and celebrate this Advent and Christmas season.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons @ St. Paul’s and all the sermons in Advent will be based on lines from the book, “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens.

**Decorating Party:**
Come out and decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas Season. We’ll meet on Friday, December 3 @ 6 pm and will begin with a chicken dinner. Then it’s time to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas! It’s a fun time for all – hope to see you then!

**Creche Window Decorations**
Families are invited to sign up to decorate the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall windowsills with their family creche from November 28 - December 26. To sign up for a window, please contact the church office at 717.665.2447 or by email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

**Christmas Eve:**
A child has been born for us, a son given to us...and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

St. Paul’s will celebrate the coming of the Christ Child – the Light of the World – on Friday, December 24 @ 7 & 11 pm. The services will include lessons and carols of the season and candelighting.

Invite your family and friends to St. Paul’s UCC to worship and celebrate that the Light of Jesus Christ has come into our dark world – all are welcome!

**Breakfast with Santa**
The Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Giveaway will look slightly different than usual and very different from last year as we continue to pivot during the pandemic to stay safe.

Santa Claus will be here at St. Paul’s UCC on Saturday, December 4 from 9-10:30 am for visits and photo opportunities. All kids will receive a fun goody bag and everyone will receive a hot takeout breakfast to go. While the Breakfast with Santa is happening, we’ll also have our Christmas Giveaway for any kids who needs a hat, scarf, gloves or school supplies.

**Bell Ringers Needed:**
St. Paul’s will be at Longenecker’s Hardware on Tuesday, December 7 from noon – 8 pm to Ring the Bell for the Salvation Army. See the next page for more information.

December 2021/January 2022 – Page 3
Salvation Army Bellringers

St. Paul’s UCC will once again participate in raising funds for the Salvation Army by ringing the bell @ Longenecker’s Hardware on Tuesday, December 7 from noon-8pm.

The Salvation Army helps local families going through difficult financial times right here in Manheim. This is just one way we can make a difference through the love of Christ!

If you’d like to ring the bell at Longenecker’s Hardware, please contact Pam Herman at 717.665.2447 or by email at stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

And thank you for considering ringing the bell! Please know that when you ring, you directly provide funds for an important ministry to people in need in the Manheim area.

Book Club

Many people enjoyed the last Book Club held in October after reading “The Shack” led by Pastor Bill Long.

You’re invited to attend the next Book Club which will be held on Tuesday, February 1 @ 6 pm in Fellowship Hall. Social distancing practices will be in place, so please wear a mask.

Up for discussion will be “At Home in Mitford by Jan Karon.

It’s easy to feel at home in Mitford where the air is pure, the village is charming, and the people are generally lovable. Yet Father Tim, the bachelor rector who yearns for something more, suddenly finds he has more than he can handle! His life is turned upside down - seemingly overnight, Father Tim’s quiet life isn’t so quiet anymore.

Books are available to pick up on the table outside the church office or please contact Pam Herman at 717.665.2447/stpaulsmanheim@ptd.net.

FREE Community Breakfast

The December FREE Community Breakfast with Santa is on Saturday, December 4 - see page 3 for more information.

In January, the FREE Takeout Community Breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 15 from 9-10 am.

Contact Sandy Bareford at 717.341.5931 or by email at sandybareford@gmail.com to help out.

Mission Team Gift Card Fundraiser

St. Paul’s Mission Team would like to make your holiday shopping easier!

Gift Cards from retailers such as Cabela’s, Weis Markets, Panera Bread, Sheetz, iTunes, Bass Pro, Bath & Body Works and others are available to order - contact Karen Brandt at 717.341-1517. Payment is due with your order and you should receive your order by the following Sunday!

The last day to order your gift cards is Sunday, December 12!

The Mission Team receives a percentage back from the gift cards – so it’s a win win for everyone! And thank you for supporting St. Paul’s Mission Team.
A Season of Waiting

Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God’s purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted to cook favorite meals in different ways. And though we craved anything baked in an oven — cookies, casseroles, even chicken nuggets — we realized that waiting eight weeks for an oven isn’t truly a trying time.

Many of us wait for much greater milestones and miracles: physical healing, the return of a prodigal child, an end to financial struggles. Paul offers us hope as we wait: “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had” (Romans 15:5, NIV).

When you’re in a season of waiting — including Advent! — consider what you’re thankful for and what you crave. Tell God how you’re feeling and ask for endurance while you wait.

—Janna Firestone
Council Highlights

Church Council met on Tuesday, November 16 @ 7 pm. Highlights of the meeting include:

Memorial Gifts & Endowment:
October was a good month in the market – the fund is up $22,000; up $66,000 year to date.

Treasurer’s Report:
Benevolence: $956 was received for the October Mission of the Month which was Church World Services’ Blanket Appeal.
Operating: October current fund income was $13,755 taken in over 5 Sundays.
Capital: Income for October was $2,500; $11,637 stained glass invoice paid.

Pastor’s Report:
• Greeters are needed for the parking lot entrance door. A sign-up sheet will be created for people to sign up.
• Council will provide Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 26 following worship in Fellowship Hall.
• Pastor Bill’s current covenant is signed through 2024, but he is willing to serve past that date. Council approved the extension.

Committee Reports:
New Voices & Property Board provided written reports.

Old Business:
Church Events:
• Manheim Farm Show – Rick Conley reported that the church made $1,800 + $427 from leftover BBQ Sales
• Congregational Meetings will be held:
  o Sunday, December 12 for the Annual Congregational Budget Meeting following worship
  o Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 30 following worship.
  Committee reports for the Annual Report are due to the church office no later than Thursday, January 6.
• 2022 Budget – Highlights include:
  o Benevolence – no change to OCWM; kept at $6,000
  o Operating – income increased to $140,000 to reflect current trend; worship expenses increased due to new communion cup costs
  • Council Search – if you would be interested in serving, please see Joan Hess. There is 1 – 3 year term and 1 – 2 year term available.
  • A Beautification Committee is needed. Volunteers willing to upkeep the front area of the church please contact Joan Hess if interested.

The next church council meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15 @ 7 pm with Spiritual Council at 6 pm.

Church Council Minutes/Packets are posted in Fellowship Hall, in the 2nd Floor Hallway, and are also available to you in the church office by request.

Important Congregational Meeting Dates
Please mark your calendar for the following Important Congregational Meeting Dates:

• Sunday, December 12 @ 10:30 am – on the agenda is the Proposed 2022 Budget.

• Thursday, January 6, 2022 – Information to be included in the Annual Report from all committee chairs is due to the church office.

• Sunday, January 30, 2022 @ 10:30 am – Annual Congregational Meeting.

Annual Report Info due to office by Jan 6!
In January, the Mission of the Month is UCC Homes.

Since its founding in 1965, the communities of UCC Homes have been providing gracious retirement living. Serving in south central PA, a full continuum of residential care is provided for people of all faiths and life experiences. As a non-profit organization, their focus is about creating a comfortable, caring and productive lifestyle for their residents. Please use your January special envelope to support UCC Homes.

2022 Missions of the Month:
January – UCC Homes
February – Shepherd's Fund
March – Heifer Project/One Great Hour of Sharing
April – Manheim Central Food Pantry
May – Manheim Ministerium’s Assistance Fund
June – Strengthen the Church
July – Shepherd’s Fund
August – Bible2School
September – St. Paul’s Mission Team
October – CWS Blanket Appeal
November – Community Breakfast
December – Teen Central

Teen Central is the December Mission of the Month.

Teen Central, located on Wolf Street in Manheim, provides:
- a safe and attractive youth facility where volunteers and staff can encounter our community’s youth
- engaging Christian volunteers as staff, mentors, and positive role models
- social events that foster positive relationships and healthy behavior
- life skills training and spiritual input sessions

For more information about Teen Central, go to www.teencentralmanheim.org.

Please use your December special envelope to support the youth in Manheim through Teen Central.

Giving Envelopes & End of Year Giving

Offering Envelopes: Your 2022 Offering Envelopes will be ready to be picked up in December! Please consider delivering those of your neighbor or family members who might not be able to pick up their own offering envelopes. Please feel free to contact the church office at 717.665.2447 to arrange for pick-up or if you prefer to use direct withdrawal – it’s safe and easy to set up!

Year End Contributions to be credited for 2021 must be received in the Church Office no later than Sunday, December 26, 2021. Contributions received after that date will go into 2022 regardless of the date on the check.

Thank you for your continued faithful support of all the ministries of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ especially during this pandemic— together we are Making a Difference through the Love of Christ to Know God, Love God & Serve God!
### December 2021

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7:30pm Elite Bells | 11:00am Staff Meeting  
12:00pm Marheim Ministerium  
6:30pm Bible Study  
7:30pm Elite Bells | 5:00pm 1st Thursday  
7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran | 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran | 4:00am Santa Breakfast |
| 12     | 13     | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17     | 18       |
| 9:00am Prayer Group  
9:30am One Worship  
10:30am Congregational Budget Meeting | 8:30am Lancaster Association Meeting | 6:30pm Bible Study  
7:30pm Elite Bells | 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran | 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran | 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service  
11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service |
| 19     | 20     | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| 9:00am Prayer Group  
9:30am One Worship  
10:30am Coffee Hour | 6:00pm Spiritual Council  
7:00pm Church Council | 6:30pm Bible Study  
7:30pm Elite Bells | 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran | Christmas Eve  
7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service  
11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service | Christmas Day - Office Closed |
| 26     | 27     | 28      | 29        | 30       | 31     |          |
| 9:00am Prayer Group  
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December 2021/January 2022 – Page 8
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Worship Attendance

Worship attendance equals in person worship in the Sanctuary, those attending worship in the parking lot and online views of the sermons:

- October 24 – 54
- October 31 - 97
- November 7 - 68
- November 14 – 83
- November 21 - 74

Thank You Notes

We appreciate the work that went into the 252nd Anniversary hand-out that Burt Savitz prepared for us. Thank you!

I would like to thank all who said yes when asked to sponsor the altar flowers. Starting in December, however, we will be having silk flower arrangements. Karen Weiss has designed four beautiful arrangements which will be rotated seasonally. Thank you, Karen!
- Bonnie Myers

A special thank you for all the cards received for Michael’s 49th birthday. As an infant, he had a reaction to the pertussis vaccine. The dr. said he would only live to be 15 or 16. Here we are celebrating his 49th birthday. We thank God for every day we have with him. Blessings to our church family.
- Larry & Sylvia Shelley

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.

Lynn  Dee  Susan
Bets  Terry  Jane
Anna Mary  Bob & Joanna  Michael
Julia  Phyllis  Linda
Polly  Doris  Ozzy
*Gary & Linda

Warm Wishes to all those celebrating a Birthday or Anniversary in December & January!
Thanks for Caring

At Dr. Brooke Gabster’s memorial service, her families offered heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent cards, flowers and gifts. Brooke struggled for 2 years with a rare form of cancer as she was in residency in Stanford Global Health rotating through different specialties when she got sick but continued working as she was able. Both Brooke and her husband, Stephen, were so appreciative of our church family’s support for her with the cards and beautiful prayer shawl. Thanks to all for your caring at times like these.

- Claire Reed

Communication Deadlines

St. Paul Happenings is printed monthly except for the December/January & July/August combined issues. The deadline to submit articles is the 3rd Sunday of the month before publication.

The February 2022 newsletter deadline is Sunday, January 16, 2022.

Bulletin announcements are due to the church office no later than Wed. mornings @ 8 am.

Christmas Blessings & Happy New Year

From St. Paul’s UCC’s staff and leaders -

May your Christmas and New Year be blessed!

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
Praise Team Coordinator – Steve Smith
Custodian – Mark Lowe
Kitchen Managers – Sandy Bareford & Jerry Weller

Council:

Ministers – All Church Members
Carol Blanchard
Lynn Brewer - Secretary
Rick Conley – Vice President
Danette Fair
Joan Hess – President
Gretchen Miller - Treasurer
Dave Palfrey – Assistant Treasurer
Karen Weiss
Non-voting Ex-Officio Member by Position:
The Rev. Bill Long, Pastor
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

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11, KJV