

*“Where is he
who has been born
king of the Jews?
For we saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship him.”*

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

Matthew 2:2, ESV December 2021/January 2022

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

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!

Apparently 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

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StPaulsuccManheim.org

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Lighting Our Way

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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.

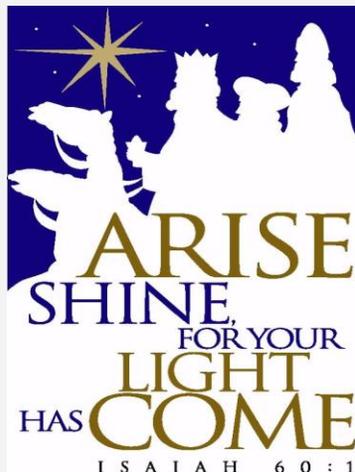
The Lord will see us through this and so much more. He has our hand! Just trust and follow.

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



December/January Scripture Readings

December 5 – Advent 2: Malachi 3:1-4/ Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11/St. Luke 3:1-6

December 12 – Advent 3: Zephaniah 3:14-20/Isaiah 12:2-6/Philippians 4:4-7/St. Luke 3:7-18

December 19 – Advent 4: Micah 5:2-5/Luke 1:46-55/Hebrews 10:5-10/ St. Luke 1:39-55

December 25 – Nativity of Our Lord: Isaiah 9:2-7/Psalm 96/Titus 2:11-14 /St. Luke 2:1-20

December 26 – Christmas 1: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26/Psalm 148/Colossians 3:12-17/St. Luke 2:41-52

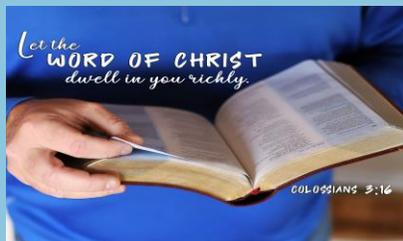
January 2, 2022 – Christmas 2: Jeremiah 31:7-14/Psalm 147:12-20/Ephesians 1:3-14/St. John 1:1-18

January 9 – Baptism of Our Lord: Isaiah 43:1-7/Psalm 29/Acts 8:14-17/St. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 16 – Epiphany 2: Isaiah 62:1-5/Psalm 36:5-10/1 Corinthians 12:1-11/St. John 2:1-11

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

January 30 – Epiphany 4: Jeremiah 14:4-10/Psalm 71:1-6/1 Corinthians 13:1-13/St. Luke 4:21-30



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!



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.

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.

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!

Sunday, December 26 will feature **Coffee Hour** following 9:30 am worship!





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

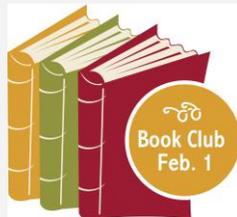
Many people enjoyed the last Book Club held in October after reading "The Shack" led by Pastor Bill Long.

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.



Don't let Christmas shopping weigh you down. Buy Gift Cards from the Mission Team!

See a Mission Team Member in Fellowship Hall to place your order.



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.

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.



Women's Fellowship

We have had our final business pleasure meetings for the year.

Our thanks to those in our midst who knitted or crocheted hats and scarves, made toys or contributed to the purchase of books, pencils, etc. for St. Paul's Breakfast with Santa and Christmas Giveaway. The women packed those giveaway bags as part of their November meeting.

We have all appreciated the beautiful fall decorations in the Sanctuary, which you so graciously shared with us and look forward to your helping to decorate our beautiful Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall windows for the upcoming Advent/Christmas season. We have so many talented people in our congregation and appreciate that you are willing to share those talents to glorify the Lord.

Thank you to all who continue to support us in our endeavors so that we are able to give financial donations to our local Food Bank, Fire Company, Bethany Children's Home, etc., as well as to our UCC Homes through the gift cards and in contacting our homebound members. Remember those folks who sat in the same pews for many years that you



sit in now and spiritually and financially served the Lord.

Please remember these folks with a card, phone call and prayers.

We will not have a regular meeting again until March of 2022, weather permitting. However, we may have a sub sale in January if all goes well. Keep your eyes and ears open and watch the newsletters and weekly bulletin. Thank you for your support and caring. Blessed be the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love! Keep praying and caring about others!

In His Love, June Smith & Deb Kleinfelter

Altar Flower Change

St. Paul's recently received information from our altar flower provider that the price would increase to \$40 per week plus include an additional \$9 charge for delivery effective December 1.

At their October meeting, Church Council felt that cost was too prohibitive to continue with fresh weekly altar flowers and instead will use seasonal silk arrangements instead.

Karen Weiss has graciously agreed to create 4 arrangements to be changed to reflect the current season to be placed on the altar. As these arrangements age, they will be updated as necessary.

Thank you, Karen, for sharing your beautiful arrangements with us to glorify God! And thank you to Bonnie Myers for her many years of service to God in coordinating the altar flower orders and deliveries.

A Season of Waiting

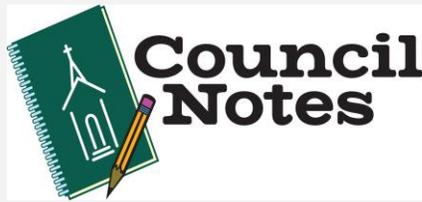
Our oven recently bit the dust, and the needed replacement part is no longer manufactured. Due to an appliance shortage, we had to wait eight weeks for a new oven! Yet even amid inconvenience, I see God's purpose. We were thankful to have a grill and slow cookers in the meantime. We creatively attempted 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.



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:
 - Sunday, December 12 for the Annual Congregational Budget Meeting following worship
 - 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:

- Benevolence – no change to OCWM; kept at \$6,000
- 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 @ 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!



Missions



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.

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

YOU CAN HELP



Food Pantry Update

In October, 93 households for a total of 247 individuals were served at the Manheim Central Food Pantry. 96 new families for a total of 15 individuals were registered.

Food items needed include:

- Vegetable Beef Soup
- Spam
- Canned Pineapple
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Crackers
- Plastic Grocery Bags

Feel free to drop off your donations at the Food Pantry located at 334 W. Gramby Street in Manheim. For more information about the Food Pantry go to:

manheimcentralfoodpantry.org.

Thanks for supporting the Manheim Central Food Pantry.



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			<p>1 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Elite Bells</p>	<p>2 5:00pm 1st Thursday 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9:00am Santa Breakfast</p> 	
<p>5 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship</p>	<p>6 7:00pm Property Board</p>	<p>7 12:00pm Ring Bell for Salvation Army</p>	<p>8 11:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Manheim Ministerium 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Elite Bells</p>	<p>9 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	
<p>12 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Congregational Budget Meeting</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 8:30am Lancaster Association Meeting</p>	<p>15 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Elite Bells</p>	<p>16 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	
							
<p>19 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 6:00pm Spiritual Council 7:00pm Church Council</p> 	<p>22 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Elite Bells</p>	<p>23 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service 11:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service</p>	<p>25 Christmas Day - Office Closed</p> 	
<p>26 9:00am Prayer Group 9:30am One Worship 10:30am Coffee Hour</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran</p>	<p>31</p>		

January 2022

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

JANUARY

1
Happy New Year! Office Closed



2
9:00am Prayer Group
9:30am One Worship

3
7:00pm Property Board

4
1:30pm Staff Meeting

5
6:30pm Bible Study
7:30pm Elite Bells

6
6:30pm Manheim Women's Club Board Mtg.
7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran

7

8

9
9:00am Prayer Group
9:30am One Worship

10

11
8:30am Lancaster Association Meeting
7:00pm Manheim Women's Club

12
12:00pm Manheim Ministerium
6:30pm Bible Study
7:30pm Elite Bells

13
7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran

14

15
9:00am FREE Community Breakfast



16
Newsletter Deadline!
9:00am Prayer Group
9:30am One Worship

17
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

18
6:00pm Spiritual Council
7:00pm Church Council

19
6:30pm Bible Study
7:30pm Elite Bells

20
7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran

21

22



23
9:00am Prayer Group
9:30am One Worship

24

25

26
6:30pm Bible Study
7:30pm Elite Bells

27
7:00pm AA Meeting @ Zion Lutheran

28

29

30
9:00am Prayer Group
9:30am One Worship
10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting

31





Winter Birthdays & Anniversaries

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



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



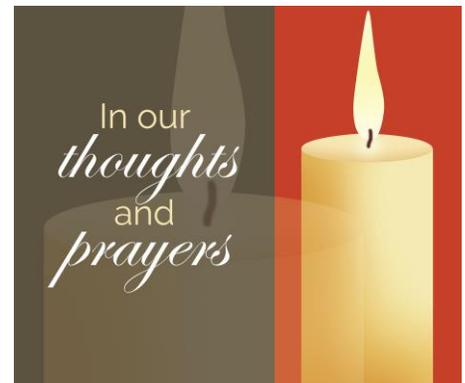
A special thank you for all the cards received for Michael's 49th birthday. As an infant, he had a reaction to the pertussis vaccine. The dr. said he would only live to be 15 or 16. Here we are celebrating his 49th birthday. We thank God for every day we have with him. Blessings to our church family.

- 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		





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!

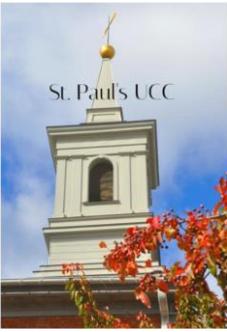
St. Paul’s Staff & Leaders

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

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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

