



the Cornerstone

DECEMBER 2017 // ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Carving Out Space for the Holy

It's fascinating to me that the very mention of Christmas increasingly brings a sense of dread and exhaustion to many. We see the countdowns and declare, "Dear God, not yet!" Instead of bringing joy and peace, the broadcasting of carols on the radio can inspire anxiety of impending doom. And the wondrous joy of sharing love and the celebration of life through the giving of gifts increasingly leaves people weary, depressed, and otherwise empty in a multitude of ways.

Certainly there has been the railing against the consumerism of the season and the need to keep Christ in Christmas. Yet, even as Christians, we pretty much continue along in the same general practices and rhythm of the culture around us. Though many of us have considered another way, the thought of potentially disappointing family, friends, kids, and/or our spouse has been enough to keep us pushing those changes out to some indeterminate time in the future when we will 'really' be about the hope and blessing of God. And all of this despite the fact that we know so much of the season is leaving us farther, rather than closer, to Christ and the hope we desperately long to be birthed into our lives and into this world.

So what is one to do? Make yourself some dates with God. Right now! Not later, because you will probably never get back to it if you don't do it right now. So right now, grab your calendar...I'll wait till you get back...and schedule when and how you will be in communion with God these next four weeks.

Be honest with yourself in doing this so that you set yourself up for

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Upcoming Events

- Nov 26** Hanging of the Greens
Poinsettia Orders Due
SCRIPs
- Nov 28** Bazaar Prep
- Nov 29** Bazaar Prep
- Nov 30** Cooking for Bazaar
- Dec 1** Baking for Bazaar
- Dec 2** Christmas Bazaar
- Dec 9** Christmas in Birdsboro
- Dec 14** Blue Christmas Worship
- Dec 24** 9:30am Worship
6:30pm Family
Candlelight Worship
11:00pm Midnight
Watch Worship
- Dec 26-Jan 1**
Pastor Joe's Vacation
Office Closed

Carving Out Space for the Holy

Continued...

success and not failure. Maybe it is 5 minutes of holding a cup of coffee while being still to God's presence in the morning. Maybe it is ten minutes of looking at the stars at night reflecting on the journey to Bethlehem. (Note it doesn't have to be every night, but make sure to schedule the nights that it will be). Maybe it is making space for the Blue Christmas worship, picking up the Daily Bread devotional from church, doing prayer walks at lunch, or taking the month to kneel in prayer before bed. And if your only time is in the car, determine now what you will do to support some period of that time being God's time.

Clearly this will not be enough to change the world around us. But then again, one should never underestimate the power of committed prayer to effect lasting change that brings of life and light that our souls, and this world, so desperately long for.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Joe

Confirmation Class

Beginning January

Are you in 8th grade, or older, and looking to explore more deeply what it means to be a disciple of Christ and a member of the church? If so, Confirmation may be right for you. In addition to exploring the core components of the Christian faith, our newly redesigned Confirmation class will have participants experientially learning how to be a leader within the church as they live out their discipleship. To learn more, contact Pastor Joe by December 17th, as the class schedule will be developed around participant needs.

Adult Discipleship Class

Starting in February, an evening mid-week discipleship class will be forming. Focusing on Jamie Blaine's spiritually provocative book, Midnight Jesus, we'll explore questions of meaning and value, discipleship and church, while questioning the basic assumptions that set the foundation for our everyday lives. Look for dates, times, and location to be announced in the New Year.

December Worship Schedule

Remembering that we it is Christ would we celebrate at the heart of this season, let us be bold in claiming sacred space that kindles anew within us the truth that God has come as one of us, and as such declared just how wide and depth and broad is the love of God.

December 3th, 9:30am

1st Sunday of Advent:

Pew Communion & Children's Message

December 10th, 9:30am

2nd Sunday of Advent

Thursday, December 14th, 6:30pm

Blue Christmas: Service of Hope & Light @ Birdsboro Library – A pause within the race to Christmas in order to be re-awakened to the light and hope that is of Christ.

December 17th, 9:30am

3rd Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Worship Services

9:30am – 4th Sunday of Advent Worship –filled with carols, stories, and Communion's love this celebratory service is designed for all seeking to rejoice in Christ.

6:30pm – Family Service – Specifically designed for youth and young families. With familiar carols, a children's message, blessings offered during communion, and a candlelight service, we joyously share the Christmas story.

11:00pm – Midnight Watch – Focusing on our hope filled anticipation of Christ's advent into this world, we experientially move from darkness to light. Through word and song, Communion and blessings, we watch and wait for the Light of the world to shine within and through us.

Sunday, December 31th, 9:30am

First Sunday of Christmas

Weather Cancellation Policy for Worship

Notice of cancellation, whenever possible, will be posted by Sunday morning at 7:30am on the website, Facebook page, church answering service message, 69news, and WFMZ.

Mark Your Calendars

St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar

*Saturday, December 3 from 9am—2pm
St. Paul's UCC Church*

Stop on by for Come and do some shopping at this year's Annual Christmas Bazaar! Here you will find one of a kind hand created items, desserts, and food for you to enjoy!

Congregational Meeting

January 21st

With a focus on building and strengthening relationships that we share with each in this ministry of Christ, this congregation will also highlight some of our ministry transitions, the 2018 financial mission plan, an update to the coaching search process, and a pre-view of the April 21st 5K race. Thank you in advance for sharing in this work of being Christ's church!

Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Preaching

January 28th

This will truly be a unique opportunity to not only hear our Conference minister proclaim the good news of Christ, but also learn of the breadth of ministry occurring in our Conference and the meaningful role our congregation plays in the wider church. Plus be sure to stay after worship for refreshments and fellowship.

5K Race & Fun Run

Benefiting Mission Trip Birdsboro

On Saturday, April 21st, at 9am, St. Paul's will be hosting a 5K race through the streets of Birdsboro to promote Mission Trip Birdsboro and to raise funds for its work. Over the holidays be sure to let friends, neighbors, and family know about the event now so that they plan for the spring. We're looking forward to this fun, community centered event!

5th Annual Mission Trip Birdsboro

We are pleased to announce the 2018 Mission Trip Birdsboro will be held July 18th – 21st. Look for application assistance forms to be available starting in February, with participant signups beginning in April. Note that there will once again be a maximum of 50 site workers per day, and with more churches joining in you'll want to get your registration forms in early!

Sing and Share some Christmas Cheer!

Sunday, December 17, following worship

You're invited to join in the fun of a pizza lunch, then to go, sing and share Christmas Cheer with our Home Congregants! Song sheets and travel directions will be provided. Carpooling is encouraged. Please join us! Contact Pat Babel at 484-366-6700 with any questions.

Cards for Home Congregants

For those who have lost loved ones or are restricted to their homes, the holiday season can be a very lonely and difficult time. One way to bring life and joy into the hearts of such individuals is to let them know that you care. As you prepare your Christmas cards this year, you are invited to send letters to our Home Congregants so that they might share in the love that flows through the body of Christ. (For privacy reasons we limit the posting of addresses in public. If you are unsure of an address, please contact the church office for an updated church directory.)

*Spread
Christmas
Cheer!*

Grace Freed
Craig Hawk
Frances Johnson
Betty Millard
Genevieve Weaver
Ida & Richard Williams
Linda & Larry Wolfgang
John Marquet

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Daily Bread Devotional Available

The December/January/February addition of the Daily Bread is now available. These devotions, purchased each quarter by the Helping Hands, are a great way to help center your life in God. With daily scripture readings and inspiring stories, they are sure to make an impact within you. Free for your personal use, these devotionals can be picked up at the church entrances, from the pew card holders, or by contacting the church office.

2018 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for 2018 will be available to pick up from the church starting Dec. 10th. We ask all members to pick up their envelopes by the end of December and to assist in connecting envelopes with family members, friends, and neighbors as we no longer mail offering envelopes to individuals.

Also, for tax purposes, any offerings postmarked 2017 will be included on your 2017 giving statement (unless you are using the new offering envelopes which will be held and counted as 2018 offerings). All offerings postmarked 2018 or received in the offering plate in 2018 will be recorded on your 2018 giving statement.

January 7th is the first day to begin using your new, 2018 offering envelopes.

Box Tops

Thank you for helping us collect Box Tops! During October you donated \$7.20 to support our school. When you clip out your Box Tops make sure they aren't expired. Also remember that we can't use Campbell's Labels for Education.

If you haven't donated Box Tops yet, you can find the donation box on the side entrance table. It's hard to miss. It is completely covered in Box Tops.

Keep on Collecting! Natalie and Olivia Motz

Rejoicing Spirits

Attention lay members and clergy!

Would you like to be a part of a planning group for a "shush-free" worship service for individuals with disabilities in the local area? The Rejoicing Sprits Program is an innovative ministry which works with congregations to provide a meaningful, inclusive worship service in a loving and supportive community for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their friends and families. Team development and host site discussions will start in the Spring of 2018.

Please contact Melissa Lichtenwalner at mmlichtenwalner@gmail.com if you are interested.

Blue Christmas: Service of Hope & Light

Though we claim that Christmas is about Christ and God's love poured out, in the midst of traditions, expectations and hectic schedules, too easily this truth is missed. This is especially true for those who know of loss, brokenness, pain, or sorrow within this season. For this reason we offer a uniquely special Blue Christmas worship service that is designed to be purely about a rekindling of hope and light that is of God.

Held Thursday, Dec. 14th, 6:30-7:30pm, at the Birdsboro Library (129 N Mill St, Birdsboro), this newly redesigned service will be a meaningful one in which to invite friends and family who are longing for peace, wonder, and grace filled hope as together we journey through this season.



Worship Leadership – December

Worship Date	Worship Stewards	Greeters	Acolytes	Ushers	Nursery
Dec 3	Janeen Adil	-	Gage Fecera	Carole Audette, Bonnie Frankhouser, Richard Wolf, and Stuart Wells	-
Dec 10	Mary Motz	-	Victoria Nuss	Sandi Swavely & Wanda Druzba	Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes
Dec 17	Sandi Swavely	-	William Manney	Dee & Ken Chrsitman	Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes
Dec 24 9:30am	Tim McGee	-	Oliva Motz	Judy Reeser & Nancy Dragan	Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes
Dec 24 6:30pm	Wanda Druzba	-	Natalie Motz	Barb Kerper & Star Gunn	-
Dec 24 11:00pm	TBD	-	-	-	-
Dec 31	Pat Babel	-	Gage Fecera	Tom Manney & TBD	-

Ministers of the Gospel of Christ

All Members

Consistory

Stuart Wells, President · Sherry Hunter, Vice President · Dawn Fear, Secretary · Johnny Hunter · Jeff Baker · Star Gunn · Bonnie Frankhouser · Steve Flanagan

Ministry Team Leaders

Richard Wolf & Sherry Hunter, Personnel · Dee Christman, Special Events · Rev. Joseph Motz, Worship, Touching 1,000 Lives, Mission Trip Birdsboro, Finance, Buildings & Grounds, Christian Education · Anna Oister, Helping Hands · Richard Wolf, Opportunity House Meals · Eloise Stevens, VBS · Sherry Hunter, Hoagie Sales · Wanda Druzba, Organist Search · Janeen Adil, Elders

Supporting Ministers

Rev. Joseph Motz, Pastor · Janeen Adil, Minister of Christian Spirituality · Luwaina Baker, Administrative Assistant · Barbara Kerper, Sexton · Richard Wolf, Treasurer · Rachel Flanagan, Bookkeeper · Tim McGee, Financial Secretary

To become more actively involved in the life and ministry of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in our mission to celebrate the living presence of our Lord, contact a ministry team leader or contact Pastor Motz to see where you might begin.

St Paul's Events, Church outlook, Community Church Events, Community Events, Community Groups, Fundraisers, Private Rentals, PSEC Conference Events, Christian Holidays, Holidays in United States Dec 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
SCRIP Polasettia Orders Due 8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 7pm - New Millennium	8am - All About Families 6:30pm - Consistory 7pm - Boy Scouts 595 @	Bazaar Craft set-up 8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6pm - Community Table & 7pm - Women's Club	Bazaar Craft set up 8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 9am - Disciple Bible Study 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth 7pm - Prayer Around the	cooking 8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @	baking 8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	9am - Holiday Bazaar
SCRIP First Sunday of Advent 8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship	8am - All About Families 6:30pm - 3 Fold Blessings 7pm - Boy Scouts 595 @ 9:30am - Worship	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6pm - New First Baptist	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 9am - Disciple Bible Study 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @ 7pm - Buildings & Grounds	Feast of the Immaculate 8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	Christmas in Birdsboro @ 10am - Clothing Closet
SCRIP 8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 7pm - New Millennium	8am - All About Families 6:30pm - 3 Fold Blessings 6:30pm - Finance Team 7pm - Boy Scouts 595 @	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6pm - Community Table &	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 9am - Disciple Bible Study 12:30pm - Baumtown 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Blue Christmas 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @	Newsletter Articles Due 8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	10am - Clothing Closet @
8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 1pm - Christmas Caroling 7pm - New Millennium	8am - All About Families 6:30pm - Boy Scout 6:30pm - Consistory	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 9am - Disciple Bible Study 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @ 7pm - Boy Scout	8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	10am - Clothing Closet @
Christmas Eve Christmas Eve 8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 6:30pm - Christmas Eve	Christmas Day Christmas Day 8am - All About Families 7pm - Boy Scouts 595 @	Pastor Joe Vacation 8am - All About Families 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6pm - Community Table &	8am - All About Families 9am - Disciple Bible Study 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth	8am - All About Families 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @	8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	10am - Clothing Closet @
Pastor Joe Vacation New Year's Eve 8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 7pm - New Millennium	8am - All About Families 6:30pm - Boy Scout 6:30pm - Consistory	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6pm - New First Baptist	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 9am - Disciple Bible Study 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @	8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	Epiphany