

the Cornerstone

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

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

On Sunday, October 29th the worldwide church celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. In this the principles, values, and practices of the Reformation were lifted up for all the world to see and appreciate as we within the church recalled the pivotal moment of Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 thesis to the door of Wittenberg Church in Germany. It is this act, by a single individual, that ushered in an age of reforms to the church which had been building for centuries, and which ultimately led to the splintering of the Roman Catholic Church into numerous Protestant denominations.

And yet, for all its fanfare and world changing truth, I would contend that for the most part the world, and even most Protestant Christians, have lost connection to the meaning and value of the Reformation. For one thing a lot has changed since 1517. Our culture, values, theology, economics, and worldviews are drastically different than those of the early days of the Reformation's increasingly post medieval Europe. But more significantly, as we live in an increasingly post-denominational faith environment, the story of the "Protestant" Reformation, and its founding of the Protestant Church, is seen as an interesting bit of history, but hardly anything that holds value for the work we as Christians are called to this day.

In short I would say the primary undermining of the Reformation is that it has predominantly stopped being a movement and has largely devolved into the recounting of an event that happened way back when. This despite the

fact that the tag line for churches of the Reformation is: "reformed and always reforming." But what does it mean to be a church of the Reformation? What does it mean to be 'reformed and always reforming?'

In her now famous book, [The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why](#), Phyllis Tickle writes how every 500 years the church has gone through a transformative rummage sale where the times and culture call us to discern and claim again the heart of Christianity that is to be spoken in our current time. If she is right, and there are signs all around us indicating that she might be, then maybe the real truth is that we aren't so excited about the last Reformation because we are in the midst of our own reformation. Thus the questions we need to be asking are not ones of 'what happened in 1517?', but 'how did the reformers engage these massive questions of faith and life?' Where do they give us reason to follow, and where do their failings give us wisdom to choose a different path?

In this the Reformation has a great deal to teach us in how to be Christian reformers again whose heart for the Gospel and for the revelations of Christ drive us to release what God is calling us to lay down as we set our heart, our lives, our faith on God alone and the hope that is of Christ, for all the world. In this work, may we be found in God's mercy, so that the reformation of our time is one that truly leads to life for all God's people.

Yours In Christ, *Pastor Joe*

Church Events

Nov 2	Budget Discussions Begin
Nov 5	All Saints Day Daylight Savings Ends
Nov 11	Veterans Day
Nov 17 & 18	Hoagie Sale
Nov 22	Community Thanksgiving Worship Service (Immaculate Conception)
Nov 23	Thanksgiving Day
Nov 26	Poinsettia Orders Due
Nov 28—Dec 1	Bazaar Set-up Cooking/Baking
Dec 2	Christmas Bazaar
Dec 3	Advent Begins
Dec 9	Christmas in Birdsboro
Dec 14	Blue Christmas Service
Dec 24	Christmas Eve AM Worship 9:30am Traditional Christmas Eve Worship 6:30pm Midnight Watch 11:00pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day
Dec 31	New Year's Day

Mark Your Calendars



Christmas in Birdsboro is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th, 4-8pm in Main Bird Park (Birdsboro). This is a great community based activity that draws thousands of people every year. Our Touching 1,000 Lives team is planning how we as a church can add blessing and make connections during this time. Be sure to look for more information on how you can become involved.

Proverbs 22:17

"A merry heart does good like medicine"

Are You Getting the Word Out?

When planning your ministry events, always remember to include advertising in your plan. In addition to reminding individuals to include what, when, where, and why in every advertisement created, here are some important things to remember about how our office can support you.

Newsletter

- Articles due the 15th of every month
- Generally focused on events 1-2 months ahead
- Able to handle larger articles

Bulletin

- Articles due weekly – by Wednesday
- Generally focused on 1-6 weeks ahead
- 2- 6 sentences in length (brief, but motivational)

E-News

- Articles due weekly – no later than 8am Tuesday
- Generally focused 1-2 weeks ahead
- 2-4 sentences max (short and sweet)

Facebook

- Articles due at least 3 office days before the activity
- Focused on upcoming events / what is happening now
- Images highly valued
- Design to connect the wider community & create excitement of our ministry

Ministry Transition

Over the last year Consistory has been working with Pastor Joe to transition him out of the chair roles of many of our ministry teams so that he can better engage the community, provide pastoral care, reclaim his teaching role, and more faithfully develop and lead worship. To this end we have begun the transition process. By the end of year Pastor Joe will no longer be chairing the Finance Team, Building and Grounds Team, the Stewardship Team, or facilitating the planning of monthly special offerings. Additionally, in the new year there will be further conversations about leadership for the Christian Education program and the structure and purpose of the Worship Team.

If you have an interest or a passion for any of these areas, please be in conversation with Pastor Joe or a member of Consistory so that we might better discern the Spirit's leading as we live into God's future.

Welcome to the New Organist!

Those of you who have been able to attend service this month will have seen and heard our new organist, Grace Griffith. Grace has accepted the position as St. Paul's organist and officially started on October first. Members of the search committee, Personnel and consistory enthusiastically accepted Grace for the position. This very talented musician recently completed her degree in Piano Performance at Liberty University. In addition to now becoming our permanent part-time organist Grace will continue to offer piano lessons to students at their homes during the week.

Box Tops

Thank you for helping us collect Box Tops for our school. This last month we collected \$9 of Box Tops. This money will help buy books and other things needed by our teachers. Remember when you cut out your Box Tops to include the expiration date. Also we can't use Box Tops that have expired. Therefore be sure to put your Box Tops in the Box Top collection box on the side entrance table each month. Keep on helping the schools by collecting Box Tops!



-Natalie and Olivia Motz

November

Worship Schedule

Though it is hard to imagine that the heart of the fall is upon us, as the leaves begin to fall and the temperatures chill, we are invited to remember anew the blessing and the life we have received. Thus we gather to worship, to celebrate, and to give deep thanks.

Nov 5th, 9:30am

All Saints Worship
Traditional Preaching // Pew Communion
lighting candles in remembrance of those who have passed

Nov 12th, 9:30am

Traditional Preaching
Youth Education Classes (0-9th grade)

Nov 19th, 9:30am

Interactive Preaching,
Youth Education Classes (0-9th grade)

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, 7pm

Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship
(tentatively scheduled to be hosted by Immaculate Conception)

Nov 26th, 9:30am

Christ the King Sunday
Interactive Preaching
Youth Education Classes (0-9th grade)

Thank You!

The CROP Walk for hunger on October 8th was a huge success for the Southeast Berks Ministerium, with a record 146 walkers raising \$9,095 on the day of the walk at Daniel Boone Homestead. Our church had only four walkers this year but we were able to raise \$480.

Thank you to all who supported us this year. Remember, one quarter of what is raised stays in the community, with the remainder going to help Church World Service with the fires, floods, hurricanes and other calamities occurring around the world. If you meant to donate, it's not too late: you can drop your donation in the offering plate inside a special giving envelope marked "CROP" or you can donate online at www.crophungerwalk.org/Donate - and indicate our team "St Pauls UCC Birdsboro".

Thanks again,
Joe & Denise Cisick // Paul & Wanda Druzba

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult CE Classes

This class meets Sunday mornings from 8:30am-9:10am in St. Paul's church multipurpose room. The book '[An Ignatian Introduction to Prayer](#)' by Timothy M. Gallagher's will be used and can be purchased on Amazon for \$8.52 used and \$11.75 new. (Purchase is not required) If you have questions, please contact [Pat Babel](#).

November Special Offering— All Saints Offering

As we remember those who have died within our lives, we are invited to give thanks for the saints of the church who have given us and others the hope of Christ's resurrection. Therefore, on November 5th & 12th, we'll receive a special offering to support the retired clergy, and spouses, who had served area UCC churches, but who now struggle to support themselves. 100% of your donation will be used to directly support these individuals!

Prayer Around the Cross

The final gathering for 2017 will be on Wed. Nov. 29, from 7-7:30 pm in St. Paul's sanctuary. Since we are on the cusp of Advent, our focus in prayer will be *Watching and Waiting*. All are very welcome to join in a time of special readings coupled with peaceful silence!

Note: Depending on budget approval, for 2018 Prayer Around the Cross will be offered quarterly rather than monthly.

Hoagie Sale

Nov 17 & 18

This is the last chance to order hoagies in 2017!

Hoagie Sale / November 17 & 18

\$5.50 each

Ham & Cheese ~ Turkey ~ Italian

Orders will be taken until Friday, Nov 10.

Pick-up dates are

Friday, November 17 & Saturday, November 18.

Hoagies orders can be emailed to

office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org

(must include name, date of pick-up and phone #)

****10% of proceeds will benefit the Monocacy Fire Department****

Christmas Bazaar

The search for help with the Christmas Bazaar has begun. Here is a general breakdown of help needed:

- * **Items to sale for the Bake Table**
- * **Craft Items to sale**
- * **Items for the White Elephant Sale**
- * **Food Donations to sale for Lunch**

If you are able to give a few hours of your time to work in the church, please contact Anna Oister at 610-582-3083.

Daylight Savings Ends

Don't forget to set you clocks back 1 Hour on Sunday, November 5th!

All Saints Day Sunday, November 5

The November 5th worship will be a powerful reminder of the hope we have in God to meet us in our darkness and to rescue us from the power of death. Join us in this service of candle lighting and remembrance, as we celebrate the lives of all those who have gone before us into God's eternal care.

***Note that a special offering will be received for retired clergy and their spouses in need of assistance after years of service to God's ministry.*



Worship Leadership – November

Worship Date	Worship Stewards	Greeters	Acolytes	Ushers	Nursery
Nov 5	Wanda Druzba	-	Victoria Nuss		-
Nov 12	Janeen Adil	-	Olivia Motz		Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes
Nov 19	Marty Darocha	-	Gage Fecera		Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes
Nov 26	Pat Babel	-	Ethan Nuss		Jamie McGee & Nancy Hughes

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 Groups, Fundraisers, Private Rentals, PSEC Conference Events, Nov 2017 (Eastern Time)
 Christian Holidays, Holidays in United States, Weather

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
SCRIP campaign						
Congregational Meeting Reformation Sunday 8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 7pm - New Millennium	8am - All About Families 5:30pm - Boy Scout	Halloween 8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6:30pm - Light the Night	All Saints' Day 8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 9am - Disciple Bible Study 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth	All Souls' Day 8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 6pm - Budget Team 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @	8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	Gourd Societ Gathering Veterans Day 10am - Clothing Closet
SCRIP campaign All Saints Day Daylight Saving Time ends 8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 7pm - New Millennium	8am - All About Families 6:30pm - 3 Fold Blessings 7pm - Boy Scouts 595 @	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6pm - Budget Team 6pm - New First Baptist	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 9am - Disciple Bible Study 12:30pm - Baumstown 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 6pm - Budget Team 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @	Veterans Day observed 8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	Gourd Societ Gathering Veterans Day 10am - Clothing Closet
8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 7pm - New Millennium	Finance Meeting 8am - All About Families 7pm - Boy Scouts 595 @	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6pm - Community Table &	Newsletter Articles Due 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	Hoagie Sale 8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	HH Baking Cookies 10am - Clothing Closet @
8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 7pm - New Millennium	8am - All About Families 6:30pm - 3 Fold Blessings 6:30pm - Consistory 7pm - Boy Scouts 595 @	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 3pm - Pastor's Open Office 6:30pm - Elder's	8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 9am - Disciple Bible Study 12:30pm - Baumstown 7pm - Hearts Ablaze Youth	Thanksgiving Day 8am - All About Families 8:30am - Office Open 6:30pm - Sober at 6:30 @	8am - All About Families 7pm - Beginners Meeting	HH Baking Cookies 10am - Clothing Closet @
SCRIP Poinsettia Orders Due 8:30am - Adult Christian 9am - Hearts Ablaze 9:30am - Worship 7pm - New Millennium	8am - All About Families 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
26	27	28	29	30	1	2