



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
A welcoming Christ-centered community...

First Sunday of Advent

Nov 30, 2025
9:30 am Worship

We're Glad You're Here!

Welcome: *St. Paul's creates experiences of joyful fellowship where children, youth, adults, and the elderly build open and honest relationships of mutual support. In welcoming the ongoing transformative power of the Holy Spirit, we find freedom from social stigmas and shame. This in turn empowers us to address isolation and marginalization in ourselves and in our wider community.*

Today's Scripture Readings

Luke 1:5-13 + Lamentations 3:55-57

Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Guest Preacher – Janeen Adil

Reader – Nancy Dragan

Ushers – Diane & Dave Johnson

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Pat Babel

Join us for Sunday Morning Music & Worship
9:30 – 10:30am Sunday In-Person / Zoom Worship

Connect online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86359317508>

Or by phone to listen to the service:

Call 1-646-876-9923 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID: 863 5931 7508

300 West First Street, Birdsboro PA 19508
610-582-8461 + office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org +
www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org
Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship

Leader: On Sundays and Mondays, on good days and bad days,

People: early in the morning and very late at night,

Leader: here in this room, and out in the world,

People: God, we long for you to break in. Meet us in this space.

Leader: Surprise us with your presence.

People: Fill this room with your good news.

All: With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Reader: In a world full of fear, where do you see hope?

People: We see hope when we look to the next generation. We feel hopeful when we gather together. We know hope, deep in our bones, when we dream of a better world.

Reader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, hope is all around us.

People: Today we light the candle of hope as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that we have reason to hope.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Hymn: “Of the Father's Love Begotten” V. 1,6, 7

[tune of “Of the Parent's Heart Begotten” NCH #118]

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of Heav'n adore him!
Angel hosts his praises sing!
All dominions bow before him
And exalt our God and King.
Let no tongue on Earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring—
Evermore and evermore!

Christ, to Thee with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be:
Honour, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory.
Evermore and evermore!

Prayer of Invocation

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Ever-present God,

All: we long to feel you close. We long to feel your presence in our lives. We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world. However, if we're honest, we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst. Forgive our rushing and distractions. Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space. Remind us that even in the time of Herod, even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Family of faith, even when we doubt God's presence, even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world, God is always moving closer to us. Hear and believe the good news this Advent seasons: Nothing can keep God's love away. We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone.

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture

Luke 1:5-13 [pg 43] + Lamentations 3:55-57 [pg 594]

Reader: For the word of God in scripture,
for the word of God among us,
for the word of God within us,

All: thanks be to God!

Sermon: Hope in the Midst of Fear

Hymn:

"In the Time of Herod"

[from Sanctified Art]

In the Time of Herod

CRANHAM 11.11.11.11

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Gustav Holst, 1906



In the time of Her - od, fear had ta - ken hold
Thick as fog the fear grew, slow - ly creep - ing in
Pierc - ing through the stra - tus comes the an - gels' song
In the time of Her - od, fear has ta - ken hold

5



Hope was bur - ied deep and hid - den, rare as gold
Day by day the peo - ple bent and drew with - in
"Do not fear!" rings hol - low when we've feared so long
Still we share a long - ing for a glimpse of hope

9



Or - di - na - ry peo - ple dared not speak a - loud
With the clouds so hea - vy, who could see the stars?
Still in the re - cess - es of our wea - ry souls
Or - di - na - ry peo - ple shout the truth we trust:

13



Dreams of the Mes - si - ah break - ing through the clouds
Hope - less - ness had trapped them, strong as pris - on bars
Some - thing is a - wak - ened— could it be our hope?
God will stop at no - thing to be here with us

Gathering the Prayers of the People

After each petition, we will say the following –

Leader: Holy One...

All: Lord Hear Our Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Offering and Dedication

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: "People, Look East"

W&R #161

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People, Look East

1 Peo-ple, look east, the time is near of the crown-ing of the
 2 Fur-rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall
 4 An-gels an-nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to

year. Make your house fair as you are a-ble, trim the
 there. Give up your strength the seed to nour-ish, that in
 brim, shin-ing be-yond the frost-y weath-er, bright as
 earth. Set ev-ery peak and val-ley hum-ming with the

Peo-ple, look east and sing to-day:

hearth and set the ta-ble. Peo-ple, look east:
 course the flow-er may flour-ish.
 sun and moon to-geth-er.
 word, the Lord is com-ing. Peo-ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Benediction

Leader: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with—go in peace and be not afraid. Amen.

Postlude

Liturgy from Sanctified Art: What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope This Advent

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Announcements

Christmas Poinsettias –If you are interested in purchasing red or white poinsettias, please complete the enclosed order form or contact Barb Kerper at 484-638-4938. They will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve service and can be taken home following the service. Orders will be taken through December 7, 2025. Cost is \$10 each.

Christmas Eve Service – We will celebrate Christmas Eve on Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00pm. All are welcome!

Christmas in Birdsboro – Saturday, Dec 13, 2025 – 4pm-8pm at Main Bird Park. St. Paul's will have a booth at Christmas in Birdsboro. There will be a prayer tree with wooden ornaments where you can write your prayer. We will also be handing out cookies and snacks by our puppets. Please come and support St Paul's with your time and to share the Christmas season. All are welcome to join us and stay as long as you want.

The Southeast Berks Ministerium will be collecting Redners and Boyers gift cards for Christmas meals for 40 families in the Daniel Boone School District. Our last Sunday to collect the gift cards or money designated for their purchase is December 17th.

Our Daily Bread for December/January/February 2025-2026 has arrived! Pick up your copy today!

Caring Closet starting for 2025-2026 school year

Ashley Griffith, the coordinator for the Daniel Boone School District's "Caring Closet" sent a flyer to the church asking for the following:

- * Boys underwear for our Primary Center & Intermediate Center, S-XL & 4/5-12; & all sizes for Middle & High School
- * Girls underwear for our Primary Center & Intermediate Center, S-XL & 4/5-12; & all sizes for Middle & High School
- * Universal items such as applesauce squeeze pouches & individual goldfish snacks; children's toothpaste & toothbrushes; deodorant; tampons & panty liners

"Prayers of the People" – Our current Elders will be holding meetings on the 4th Thursday evening of each month at 6pm via Zoom. All are welcome including phone participants. Contact Pat Babel at 484-949-5033 to be included in the email distribution. Thank you!

Bible Study is held in the upper room in the church each Sunday beginning at 8:30am. Join us for good conversation and discussion about the books of the bible.

Boyer's 1% Caring & Sharing – When shopping at Boyer's don't forget to have the cashier scan your 1% Caring & Sharing card (this card has St. Paul's name printed on the back of it). Every time you use the card Boyer's will give St. Paul's a rebate check totaling 1% of the total purchases made by those who used the card. This is a simple and easy way to help St. Paul's. If you don't have a card but would like one, please contact the church office.

Redner's Save-A-Tape – We are still collecting Redner's tapes for which St. Paul's can receive 1% of the total bill (Excluding items controlled by the government such as tax, milk and tobacco products). Redner's accepts receipts for redemption up to three years from their printed date and there is no dollar limit. Start saving tapes today! You can drop your receipts in the weekly offering plate or mailed to the church office.

Electronic Giving is available with the Vanco Mobile App or through our website "Give" page.

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St Paul's Weekly Calendar

Sun, Nov 30	Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm
Tues, Dec 2	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Dec 3	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Dec 4	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Currently Sober (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Dec 5	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Dec 6	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am –2pm
Sun, Dec 7	Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm

This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues- Fri 9:00am-1:00pm

This Week: Pastor Deb's Office Hours

Tues/remote 9:00am-1:00pm
Wed/in-office 9:00am-1:00pm
Thurs/remote 9:00am-1:00pm