



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

2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

Dec 7, 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

Isaiah 43:19-21 + Matthew 11:1-11

Worship Leaders

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Pat Babel

Ushers – Andy & Barb Headman

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Wanda Druzba

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God by Barbara Kerper in honor of her son Larry's birthday

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: Family of faith, God is at work!

People: God is healing and creating,

Leader: redeeming and dreaming,

People: calling and sending,

Leader: listening and loving.

All: Yes, indeed, God is at work! Let us worship God together!

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader: In a world full of fear, we have the hope of peace. Where do you see glimmers of peace even now?

People: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.

Reader: Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us. Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

(lighting of the candle of peace)

Opening Hymn: “Comfort, Comfort O My People” NCH #101
[New Century Hymnal]

(please be seated)

Invitation to Transformation and New Life

Leader: .. Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Gracious God,

All: We have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, “Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?” Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Family of faith, in our honesty, we are heard. In our worries, we are held. In our failings, we are forgiven. In our fear, we are not alone. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel! When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture
Isaiah 43:19-21 [page #521] + Matthew 11:1-11 [page #8]

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: *When Hope Trembles*

Hymn: "Looking Out a Prison Window"

Words: Anna Strickland, 2025 (©2025, A Sanctified Art)

Tune: Irby ("Once in Royal David's City") by Henry John Gauntlett, 1849

Looking Out a Prison Window

IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Music by Henry John Gauntlett, 1849



Look - ing out a pri - son win - dow, who can
All the things that keep us cap - tive shrink our
To our sib - lings still im - pris - oned be - hind
We are called to li - ber - a - tion, to be



see the flow - ers bloom? Hope dis - solves like dreams at
op - ti - mis - tic faith We must prac - tice hope on
bars of steel or fear Bring the mes - sage from our
freed and to set free Break - ing chains of world - ly



day - break leav - ing us an emp - ty room Still be - yond what
pur - pose e - ven when our spi - rits break 'Til at last our
Sav - ior: hope is real and dawn - ing near Tell the gos - pel
pow - ers who would claim our li - ber - ty Bo - dy, spi - rit,



we can see God is al - ways plant - ing seeds
free - dom comes And we fin - ally see the sun
all a - round New life springs up from the ground
mind and heart Li - ber - ate each cap - tive part

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 Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

(Communion will be served in the pews today. All are welcome to share in the meal. The ushers will bring the bread and fruit of the vine to you. Please serve the person sitting next to you, until all in your pew are served, then pass the tray back to the usher. Hold the bread until everyone has been served. Consume when the pastor invites everyone to eat together. Do the same for the wine/grape juice. The wine is the darker liquid, the grape juice lighter.

The bread is gluten free.)

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Words of Consecration

The Communion

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Leader: Loving God,

**All: in a world racked with fear, you gather us together. You set the table.
You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.
You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win.
With renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction,
send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed
us. With gratitude we pray. Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" NCH #120
[New Century Hymnal]

Commissioning and Blessing

Postlude

Parts of this liturgy adapted from:

*"What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent," © 2025 A Sanctified Art,
www.sanctifiedart.org*

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Announcements

Daily Advent: Copies of a daily Advent breath prayers and daily Advent devotional created by area pastors are still available. Pick one up today for yourself or to share with a friend!

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 in Birdsboro: Saturday, Dec 13, 2025 – 4pm-8pm at Main Bird Park. St. Paul's will have a booth. 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. For more details, talk with Doug Johnson.

Christmas Eve Service – We will celebrate Christmas Eve on Wednesday, December 24th at 4:00pm. Celebrate Christ's birth with communion, candlelight and special music. All are welcome.

The Pension Boards – Donate to The Christmas Fund

Your care and compassion will make a tangible difference in the lives of our ministers, church workers, and their families in need.

“...when they saw the STAR, they were filled with JOY...” Matthew 2:10

Blue Christmas Service: Will be held at St. Gabriel's Douglassville PA on Tues., Dec 9th at 7pm in the main sanctuary. “Blue Christmas” is a worship service for those who find that the holidays are a difficult time of year due to loss or loneliness. Join them for this service with harp music and healing prayer.

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, Dec 7	Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm
Tues, Dec 9	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Dec 10	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Dec 11	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Currently Sober (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Dec 12	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Dec 13	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Private Party (fellowship hall) Christmas in Birdsboro	8:30am –2pm 1pm 4pm-8pm
Sun, Dec 14	Worship (C) Meet and Greet New Millennium (CE)	9:30am <i>following worship</i> 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