



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

4th Sunday of Advent (A)

Dec 21, 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 41:5-10 + Matthew 1:18-25

Worship Leaders

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

Worship Leader– Lenette Wells

Reader – Doug Johnson

Ushers – Dave & Diane Johnson

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – John Herold

Flower Dedication

“To the Glory of God in memory of Dr. Christa Wilmanns-Wells
by Stuart & Lenette Wells”

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: Here in worship--

People: We pray together,

Leader: We stand together,

People: We sing together,

Leader: We listen together.

People: Here in worship-we are not alone

Leader: So when life give you reason to grieve, to fear, or to worry, remember
this moment

People: We are not alone.

Leader: Let us worship our with-us God..

Advent Candle Lighting

Reader: In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

People: We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. We see love all around us.

Reader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us. Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.

(lighting of the candle of love)

People: Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old"

NCH #108

[New Century Hymnal]

Invitation to Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us Pray

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

Leader: When you were afraid,
did I stay by your side?
Did I offer my hand,
or did I leave you alone?
When you were afraid,
did I choose solidarity?
Did I see your fear,
or did I only see mine?

**All: Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.
Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too.
So take a deep breath, and let's start again.**

Leader: Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

**All: Now we must ask—
when you were afraid,
did we stay by your side?
Did we offer our hands,
or did we leave you alone?
When you were afraid,
did we choose solidarity?
Did we see your fear?
Or did we only see ours?**

Leader: Friends, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.
Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too.
So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

**All: Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.
We accept your grace and would love to start again.**

Leader: May it be so, with God's help.

All: Alleluia, 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 41:5-10 [page #518] + Matthew 1:18-25 [page #2]

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *The Voice That Calls You Forward: Hearing God in the Darkness*

Hymn: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" WHM #121

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

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

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: “Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn”
NCH #107
[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

Pastor Deb will be on vacation from Dec 25th through Jan 1st. Pastor Margaret Ernst will be on-call for pastoral emergencies from 12/26-12/29 and Janeen Adil will be available from 12/30-01/01. You can reach Pastor Margaret through Doug Johnson.

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 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

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Please consider making a donation.

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

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

The Southeast Berks Ministerium provided gift cards from Redners and Boyers to the Daniel Boone School District to give to families for a Christmas dinner. St Paul's UCC Birdsboro donated 7 gift cards in the amount of \$100 each.
Thank you all for your generosity.

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 21	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Dec 23	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Dec 24	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
	Christmas Eve service	4pm
Thurs, Dec 25	Christmas Day	
	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Dec 26	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Dec 27	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am –2pm
Sun, Dec 28	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm

This Week: Church Office Hours

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

This Week: Pastor Deb's Office Hours

away on vacation from 12/25/25 to 01/01/26

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