



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

First Sunday after Christmas

Dec 28, 2025  
9:30am 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**

Matthew 2:13-23

## **Worship Leaders**

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

Guest Worship Leader – Pastor Margaret Ernst

Reader – Paul Druzba

Ushers – Barb Kerper and Nancy Hughes

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Diane Johnson

## **Flower Dedication**

Poinsettias in memory, or honor, of the congregation's loved ones

**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](mailto:office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org) +  
[www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org](http://www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org)  
Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

## Prelude

## Welcome

*(please rise, in body or in spirit)*

### Call to Worship

Leader: In worship, we hear God's story, and we ask,

**People: What did God do so long ago?**

Leader: In worship, we hear God's story, so we ask,

**People: What is God doing, hear and now?**

Leader: In worship, we hear God's story, then we ask,

**People: What can I do to respond to it all?**

Leader: Listen, God is speaking.

**People: Listen, it may be time to act.**

Leader: Let us worship with our moving, inspiring, with-us God.

**People: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"**

**NCH #139**

*[New Century Hymnal]*

## Announcements

### Invitation to Confession

Leader: Emmanuel. God with us,

scripture tells us that you were a refuge,

but we love to forget that information.

We love to forget the injustices in our world that feel too big for us to face.

People: **But you are a God who refuses to forget.**

**So today we pray: make it impossible for us to overlook the stories  
of those in need.**

**Make it impossible for us to sweep injustice under the rug.**

**Open our eyes along with our hearts, so that the anger we fuel  
around injustice might fuel a fire for action.**

**With hope for a better tomorrow we pray,**

**Amen.**

*(a moment of quiet reflection)*

## **Words of Assurance**

Leader: Church family,  
even when we fail to do justice,  
even when we fail to love kindness,  
God still loves us.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**People: On our best days and our worst days, we belong to God.  
We are invited into community. We are held in God's grace.  
We are forgiven, and we are sent to serve.**

Leader: Thanks be to God for a love like that.

**People: Amen.**

## **Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Hymn: "What Child is This?"** **NCH #140**  
*[New Century Hymnal]*

**We Listen For God's Word: Scripture**  
**Matthew 2:13-23 [pg 1]**

**Sermon: *Hark!***

**Hymn: "He Started the Whole World Singing"** **NCH #141**  
*[New Century Hymnal]*

## **Offering**

**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.**

*(please rise, in body or in spirit)*

**Sending Hymn: "Hark! The Herald, Angels Sing"      NCH #137**  
*[New Century Hymnal]*

## Benediction

## Postlude

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## Announcements

**Welcome Pastor Margaret!!**

**Pastor Deb will be on vacation** from Dec 25<sup>th</sup> through Jan 1<sup>st</sup>. Any concerns, please reach out to Doug Johnson.

### **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!

**“Prayers of the People”** – Our current Elders will be holding meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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

**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 28	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Dec 30	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Dec 31	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
	New Year's Eve	
Thurs, Jan 1	New Year's Day	
	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Jan 2	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Jan 3	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am –2pm
Sun, Jan 4	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm

This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues, Wed, & 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