

A large, irregular splash of pink and magenta watercolor paint serves as the background for the text. The splash is centered and has a soft, blended edge with some darker spots and smaller splatters extending outwards.

**YOU ARE  
LOVED**

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*A welcoming Christ-centered community...*

Second Sunday after Epiphany - Baptism of Christ

Jan 18, 2026  
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 3:13-17

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Dave Johnson

Ushers – Stuart Wells & Wanda Druzba

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Doug Johnson

## **Flower Dedication**

To the Glory of God by Ruth Grant

**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

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

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

### Call to Worship

Leader: Come, you who are weary, you who have been bruised by life,  
you whose flame has flickered in the winds of the world.

**People: We come, longing to be renewed.**

Leader: The Holy One who stretches out the heavens is stretching us now –  
stretching our hearts toward courage, our hands toward compassion,  
our lives toward justice.

**People: We open ourselves to be stretched into new life.**

Leader: A voice from heaven says to us, as it said to Jesus: You are my  
beloved.

This Spirit rests upon us, too. Come, let us remember who we are.

**People: We are God's Beloved.**

**All: Let us worship God together!**

**Opening Hymn: "Help Us Accept Each Other" NCH #388**

*[New Century Hymnal]*

*(to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation," Aurelia)*

### Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us turn to God in honest confession.

**All: Loving God, let us enter again your baptismal river of grace. Let it soak every stain attached to the fabric of our lives and longings. Cleanse every distracting impulse luring us away from you, who are our hearts' deepest desire. Let no urgency be more important than your forgiving love, always transforming. Today, help us choose you above every temptation that lures us to worship lesser things. Forgive us, renew us, and grant us the grace promised in Jesus. Help us to know deep in our bones that we are loved. Amen.**

*(a moment of quiet reflection)*

### **Words of Grace**

Leader: Before we thought to turn to God, God already turned toward us. The saturating grace of God is trustworthy and true. Our prayers of transformation have been met with God's outpouring of love. In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven and set free to be the people God created us to be.

**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**

**Matthew 3:13-17** *[page #2]*

**Hymn: "Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering"**

**NCH #167**

*[New Century Hymnal]*

**Sermon: Turning Toward Love**

# Affirmation of Faith and Baptismal Renewal

## Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Leader: Friends, today we remember that we are a people formed in water and Spirit. We remember that Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan, not because he needed to be cleansed, but to show us what it means to be fully human - to say yes to God, yes to belovedness, yes to the work of justice. Today we step into that yes again.

Leader: Do you believe in God?

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Leader: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of the powers of evil, and do you renew your profession that Jesus Christ is Lord?

**All: I do with the help of God.**

Leader: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**All: I will with the help of God.**

Leader: Will you continue to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

**All: I will with the help of God.**

## Blessing of the Baptismal Waters

## Remembering our Baptisms

*All are invited to come forward to the baptismal font and receive a blessing.*

### **Affirmation of our Calling**

Leader: We are the Body of Christ – not alone, but together.

**People: We are God’s beloved.**

Leader: The spirit that was in Christ is in us.

**People: We are called to share God’s love in the world.**

Leader: We will not break the bruised reed. We will not extinguish the smoldering flame.

**People: We will walk in compassion, courage, and joy.**

Leader: This is our covenant. This is our life together.

**People: Amen.**

## **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: “Go, My Children , with My Blessing” W&R #719**

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## 719 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.  
 2 Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.  
 3 Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me;  
 4 I, the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you peace;

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you; you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.  
 I, the Lord, will smile up-on you and give you peace:

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his  
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here his ten-der com-fort  
 I, the Lord, will be your Fa-ther, Sav-ior, Com-fort-er, and

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing— you are my own.  
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.  
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free.  
 Broth-er. Go, my chil-dren, I will keep you and give you peace.

# Benediction

## Postlude

*Liturgy adapted from:*

*Worship Ways* **Heaven Opened: Service Prayers for the Baptism of Christ** by the Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins ©2025 and **Stretched Them Out: Service Prayers for The Baptism of Christ** by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard ©2026

*Baptismal Renewal Liturgy adapted from: **Blessed by the Presence of God: Liturgies for Occasional Services*** (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2007), pp 27-29 © 2007 by F. Russell Mitman. Permission is granted for this one-time use.

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## Announcements

### **Thank you card from Pastor Deb -**

Dear Friends in Christ, Thank you for your generous Christmas gift!! I appreciate it and you more than you know. As I said on Sunday – You are a gift to me. Your faithfulness, kindness, thoughtfulness, and passion for BEING the Church, Christ's hands and feet and heart in the world are a daily inspiration to me. I am so grateful to be serving with you.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Deb

### **St. Paul's Super Bowl Take and Bake Pizza Sale on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>!**

Enjoy a 12" prepared pizza you bake at home. Cheese \$9.00, Pepperoni \$9.50 and Sausage \$9.50. Order forms are due by February 1<sup>st</sup> and can be placed in the offering plate, given to Dave or Diane Johnson or sent to church office. Pizza pickup and payment are due Feb 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am-1:30pm at St. Paul's church building. Thank you!

**Congregational Meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2026.** This meeting will be held in the church immediately after Sunday Service.

**Altar Flowers for January** – We have openings for altar flower dedications. If you'd like to honor or memorialize someone, contact Wanda Druzba at 610-385-3382 or see her at church for information and to reserve a date. 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.

**“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

**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, Jan 18	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Jan 20	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Jan 21	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Jan 22	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Jan 23	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Jan 24	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am –2pm
Sun, Jan 25	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm

This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues – Thurs            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