

The MONTHLY Messenger - January 2018

Happy New Year!

We Remember In Our Prayers:

Dawn Cipolla; Emily Foreman; Elaine Hockenberger; Louise Mest; Cheryl Kerns; Jerry Landis, Brenda Koder; Erin Uber.

Worship Times

8:00AM Traditional Worship Service with Holy Communion

9:30AM Family Centered Worship Service with Holy Communion.

9:30 AM - each month on the 2nd Sunday we have One Unity Worship Service with Holy Communion. Fellowship follows that service so please bring a finger food or dessert to share.

New Years Eve Sunday Morning

9:30AM Sunday Unity Service - No Sunday School

Sunday School/Adult Education: Meets each week from 8:30 to 9:15 AM
September through May.



Events & Announcements

PLEASE VISIT OUR CALENDAR ON-LINE TO SEE THE MOST UPDATED LIST OF EVENTS BY MONTH & DAY - VISIT THE PAGE BY [CLICKING HERE](#)

Theology on Tap meets January 4th at the Main Street Pub in Bally at **7PM**. All those who are 21 and over are welcome to join us for fellowship, faith discussions and refreshing adult (or other) beverages.

Men's Breakfast: Will be meeting again on **January 6 at 8AM** at Valley Cafe, in Pennsburg. We hope all our men will mark their calendar and join us.

Important Meeting for Members: The **Annual Meeting and vote on council members** will be **January 14th at 10:30AM** during Fellowship. Notices were sent this week. Please mark your calendars.

Women's Breakfast is not being held in January. We will let you know for February once a decision is made.

Lunch Bunch will be taking a break for the months of January and February. We'll see you in March! Happy New Year. Questions? Please contact Bonnie Haubert at 267-923-5567 or Joanne Hersh at 215-679-3614

Annual Giving Statements will be printed in January and placed in a box in the narthex for pick up. Any statements not picked up by the 22nd will be mailed out. They are sorted alphabetically. Please help us keep expenses down by picking your statement up. Thanks.

Christian Education Committee meets **February 4th** after Sunday Services.

Join the Communion Bread Team: This very important ministry provides bread for our Communion each week, and without them our service would look quite

different. We need new team members to join in offering bread. We also need a leader. Please volunteer. Speak with Pastor or the office. Thank you.

We are putting together a list of "helpers" if you have free time and would like to help out with various tasks at St. Paul's please let the office know. 215-679-5553 ext 110. Many hands make light the work.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Every second Sunday St. Paul's has a single Unity Service at 9:30AM followed by a time of fellowship. We are in need of individuals, families, and/or groups, to sign up as the "host" of one or more of these events. The host would set up, provide beverages and perhaps some snacks, etc., clean up after, and be the point of contact for the Sunday they sign up to host. There is a sign up sheet in the church office hallway. Please stop by and sign up to help this wonderful hospitality and fellowship ministry.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE:

The Christmas Story ends with the shepherds returning to their work in the fields outside Bethlehem, "glorifying and praising God" (Luke 2:20). What happened next in their lives, we don't know. Scripture doesn't say. But they must have been a happy bunch of shepherds - however many of them there were. They'd heard the angels. They'd seen the Savior. They'd had the night of their lives. Joy had come their way, "great joy" according to the angel (Luke 2:10). And now they had joy to share.

Their experience of Christmas seems to contrast with ours. Once we get past Christmas, once our engaging in the Story ends, we enter into the winter months. The days are cold. The nights are long. We miss the green of summer and the colors of autumn as the grayness of winter takes over. We enter a dark time of the year in which we often find ourselves low in spirits, low on energy, and low in joy. That's the difference between ourselves and the shepherds. They left Christmas excited and jubilant. We, on the other hand, struggle to fight off depression following Christmas.

Yet could the shepherds' experience, also happen to us? Might we be able to enter this time of the year with the same glad and uplifted spirits as the shepherds? I think so. I think we can join them in kicking up their heels and finding joy in the days ahead in a number of ways.

* First, we can do so by remembering our encounter with Jesus. For the shepherds that rendezvous was at the manger, gazing upon the Christ Child, maybe even getting to hold Him. In the days, the weeks, even the years that followed, simply remembering that moment with Jesus must have bolstered the shepherds' spirits many times over. Recalling our baptism, the day when Jesus reached into our lives and claimed us as God's beloved children, can do the same for us. It affirms we are precious to God. It assures us that our lives have great worth and meaning. It can lift us up and out of those dark moments, knowing that we're connected to Christ and that His Light burns brightly within us.

* Secondly, we can find happiness in these winter days by talking about our experience with Christ. After they went back to work that night, I can only imagine the shepherds happy and excited banter with each other. They must have talked and talked about what they'd seen and felt. They must have peppered each other with questions as to what it all meant. They must have delved into the story for the rest of their days, exploring its impact on their lives - finding joy and wonder in their every conversation. As can we when we gather for learning opportunities - Sunday School, Theology on Tap, Women's Breakfast Study, Men's Breakfast Study, Confirmation, community Bible studies, and devotional and prayer groups at home. Like the shepherds we can talk about having Christ in our life - learning what it means to us and discovering how it helps us. By digging deeper into our stories, we grow in the joy of seeing Christ at work in our lives and the lives of our sisters and brothers.

* Lastly, sharing the Good News of Jesus brings joy and delight. The shepherds warmed the hearts of Mary and Joseph that first Christmas Eve, making known to them all they "had been told about this Child" (Luke 2:17). Joy comes in sharing and caring. Just ask any of our Appalachian Service Project or Victory House volunteers.

As January rolls around, find a ministry in which to engage and joy will follow. I'd be delighted to talk with you about ministry opportunities and how you can share your time and talents. In sharing our faith God's Kingdom reveals itself in wonderful and joyful ways, uplifting our spirits and putting us in step with those happy shepherds.

In remembering our encounter with Jesus, in talking over what our life in Jesus means, and in sharing the Good News of Jesus I think we discover the Christmas Story really doesn't end. It just continues in the faithful discipleship of everyone who has caught glimpse of the Christ Child. So keep having a Joyful Christmas!

In Christ,
Pastor Wayne

Soup Kitchen News

On Sunday, December 10th, 2017, Bob and Laura Foreman traveled to the Victory House to prepare and serve dinner to the residents. The team prepared sausage and pepper sandwiches with pierogies and fruit salad. Chatting about work and football filled the room along with reminiscing about favorite meals of our youth. Thank you to those that have shared time, money, food and prayer. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

The St. Paul's soup kitchen committee will be traveling to the Victory house again on Sunday, January 14, 2018. If you are interested in traveling to the Victory House to help serve, would like to prepare some food prior to the trip or have any questions about the Victory House at all, please contact Bob or Laura Foreman at 267-923-8895 or via email at foreman3@hotmail.com.

Whoever gives to the poor will not want, but he who hides his eyes will get many a curse. - Proverbs 28:27

What's Happening at UPCCC?

The children and staff at UPCCC have been thoroughly enjoying this year's holiday season! They've been working hard making Christmas gifts for their families, unveiling the advent calendar, and hosting Christmas parties! We have also enjoyed our Bible time with Pastor Wayne where the children have been learning about the story of Jesus' birth. For months, the children have been preparing for their Christmas Show that was held on Wednesday, December 13th. The show represented the story of Christmas through a narrative about children baking Christmas cookies.

We also want to extend a warm thank you to those who attended and/or helped out with our Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 9th. Families enjoyed a pancake breakfast, taking pictures with Santa, and fellowship! It was a huge success!

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Youth Group News

On December 8th, the Junior and Senior Youth Groups met for the 8th Annual Caroling and Happy Birthday Jesus party. Approximately 50 people joined the group this year and spread Christmas cheer to the near by neighbors and then enjoyed some pizza, cake and fellowship fun.

The next gathering of the the youth groups will be on Friday January 12th, 2018 at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring a game, bring a friend and come ready for some fun. All youth in first grade and up are welcome.

We are currently praying for and in search of someone to lead the Senior Youth group (ages 7th grade and up). The youth are the future of St. Paul's and this is a great way to get to know them all and support their spiritual growth in a casual and relaxed environment. Please contact Bob or Laura Foreman for more details about leading the youth, joining the youth group or any youth group questions in general at 215-272-1445 or foreman3@hotmail.com.

But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." - Matthew 19:14

Electronic Giving NOW at St. Pauls!

Through the generosity and support of our members and visitors, St. Paul's is able to expand the reach of our ministry. If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find e-Giving a most welcome way to make contributions. To set up a recurring giving schedule [Click Here to Sign Up](#)

Thank you for all you do to support our ministry and mission during Christmas and throughout the year.



REMEMBER: The Open Link still needs our help! St. Paul's is the "Peanut Butter and Jelly" church - providing both of those items to the food bank for those in need.

Please place your donations in the drawers under the literature racks in the fish tank hallway. Thanks!

Worship Assistants

- January 7** Bread: Vicki Naugler Altar Guild: Nicole Walter
8:00AM Ushers: Ron Rodenberger and George Bonekemper
Worship Assistant: Joanne Hersh
9:30AM Ushers: Floyd Treffinger & John Hinkle
Worship Assistant: Thomas Uber
Counters: Team #3 Tom Sands & Charles Shagg
- January 14** Bread: Alice Oliver Altar Guild: Sandy Landis
9:30AM Ushers: Debbie Gryshuk and Katie Robbins
Worship Assistant: Donna Gerhart
Counters: Team #4 Sandy Bergey and Alan & Diane Richard
- January 21** Bread: TBA Altar Guild: Alan & Diane Richard
8:00AM Ushers: Alan Richard and Donald Dulin
Worship Assistant: Joanne Hersh
9:30AM Ushers: Nina & Tommy Fehnel
Worship Assistant: Diane Brust
Counters: Team #5 Leroy Stevens and John & Gloria Hinkle
- January 28** Bread: Diane Landis Altar Guild: Niccole Oswald
8:00AM Ushers: Ron Rodenberger and George Bonekemper
Worship Assistant: Bob Walp
9:30AM Ushers: Craig & Lori Frank
Worship Assistant: Nick Ferrero
Counters: Team #6 Sandy Bergey and Donald & Mildred Dulin

Social Groups & Ministries to Join

Appalachia Service Project is a home repair service ministry which travels to North Carolina and provides assistance to those in need during the Summer. Students in grades 7 and up are

encouraged to participate and adult helpers are needed and welcome (with clearances). Can you help? Contact Gary Hager by [email](#) (click link) or by phone 215-470-3537.

Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts: Mondays at 6:30PM and have special events through the year.

Fellowship Sunday: (Unity Sunday): Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have a single service at 9:30AM with a time of fellowship following the service. Please bring a finger food or dessert to share and Join us in the Fellowship Hall.

Jr/Sr Youth Groups: Grades 1-12 meet on the 2nd Friday of the month at 7PM in fellowship hall. Please contact Bob or Laura Foreman at foreman3@hotmail.com or 267-923-8895 with any questions about youth group.

Lunch Bunch: Meets the second Wednesday of each month in Fellowship Hall to share lunch and entertainment. Bring a lunch and coffee cup - desserts are provided by those having a birthday in that month. Also, remember to bring your Redner tapes (must use save-a-tape card). For more info call Joanne at 215-679-3614 or Bonnie at 267-923-5567.

Lutheran Chicks: A health advocates gathering held the Third Monday of odd numbered months at 12:30PM in the library.

Robotics: Tuesdays at 6:30PM and Saturdays from 9-1 from September through May

Theology on Tap: Meets the first Thursday of the month at the Main Street Pub (Hotel) in Bally at 7PM. All over 21 are welcome to join this non-judgmental discussion of faith while sharing fellowship.

Men's Breakfast: Meets the first Saturday of each month at the Valley Café at 8AM. We invite our gentlemen to come on over and share fellowship, food and faith discussions.

Women's Breakfast: Our Meetings are shifting around a bit so watch the bulletin and email news for upcoming meetings 8:30AM. We will meet at Pennsburg Diner. We invite our ladies to join us for fellowship and faith discussions.



Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous: Wednesdays 8PM

Narcotics Anonymous: Sundays 8PM

Committees

Cemetery Committee: Third Monday 7:00PM in the library

Christian Ed Committee: Will meet next on December 3rd 10:30AM

Church Council: (by election) Will meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30PM. (Please note the change in date)

Finance Committee: (by election) Will meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30PM (Please note the change in date)

Health Advocates: A committee of health oriented members, including nurses, doctors, and other health care folks who provide information and services in our community. Contact the church office with questions.

Property Committee: Meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00PM.

Soup Kitchen Committee (all are welcome): We travel to the Victory House on the 2nd Sunday of each month. If you are interested in traveling to the Victory House to help serve, would like to prepare some food prior to the trip or have any questions, please contact Bob or Laura Foreman at 267-923-8895 or via email at foreman3@hotmail.com



January Birthdays

Suzanne Fox	1/2
Paul Godshall	1/2
Joseph Harrison Oswald	1/2
Alec Frankie Sabatini	1/2
Cassidy Ann Keyser	1/3
Sandra Reeder	1/3
Sarena Brenda Breyer	1/5
Deborah Gryshuk	1/5
David C. McMurtrie	1/5
Brooke Ashley Oliver	1/7
Margie Rodenberger	1/7
Ty Montgomery Frank	1/8
Denise Klavon	1/8
Kyle John Himmelwright	1/11
Christopher Struble	1/12
Liam Miles Rea	1/13
Jake Krempasky	1/14
Diane Palencar	1/14
Warren J. Stevens	1/16
Jessica N. Phillips	1/18
Thomas R. Sell	1/18
Bradley Troxel	1/19
Louise Mest	1/21
Alayna Marline Rea	1/22
Donovan Hanney	1/23
Gavin Scott Peart	1/24
Madelyn Eleanor Smith	1/24
Lauren E. Gibbs	1/25
Thomas A. Roth	1/25
Bryce Charles Wadsworth	1/25
Karen Hitchcock	1/26
Jerry Landis	1/26
Keeley Mikal Schaffer	1/26
Avery Ehrenreich	1/27
Jeffrey R. Johnson	1/27
Robert Schwenk	1/27
Kaity Watts	1/27
Steven Johnson	1/28
Donna Schwenk	1/28
Stephanie Smith	1/28
Barbara Nace	1/29
Merle Weeks	1/29
Jeannette Bowyer	1/30
Guy Carey	1/30
Steven Martin	1/30
Lori Rothenberger	1/31



[Visit Our Website \(click\)](#)

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