

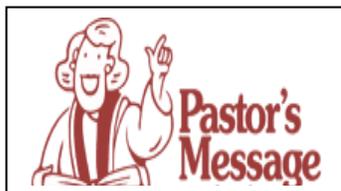


Newsletter of St. Paul's United Church of Christ

# *The St. Paul's Spirit*

Pottstown, Pennsylvania

December 2021



## *FROM THE PASTOR*

Dear church family,

It's getting darker now, isn't it? And colder. This month we will journey through Advent together towards the manger, towards God-in-the-flesh, God-with-us. It's tempting to rush to Christmas, with that wondrous gift God gives us and all of the joy and anticipation we feel. Let us pause a bit, though, before we get there. In our preparations for Easter, we very cautiously and intentionally walk the path of Lent, knowing the promise that is set before us at the empty tomb. I've noticed that we tend to treat Advent differently. We are less inclined to take that slow walk to the manger and to prayerfully prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. Perhaps it's the rush of family obligations, special events, gift buying and large dinners to prepare that challenges us to stay in a space of prayerful preparation. So, I want to invite all of us to lean into Advent these next few weeks. Take it slow, steady and remember what Advent is getting us ready for - the very presence of Love in the world and in our lives.

As a child, if there was a toy that I really wanted, my parents would tell me "Well, Christmas is coming!" even in the midst of spring! So yes, friends....Christmas *is* coming, but let us be sure that there is enough room in our hearts to welcome God in.

I hope this prayer from Rev. M. Barclay is a blessing for you in this season....

*Whether the holidays  
bring you joy or make you feel lonely...  
fill you with memories that delight  
or bring up pasts you'd prefer to forget...  
whether you will move through the motions  
in a cloud of grief,  
or clenching your teeth,  
or being renewed by the joy they provide...  
whether you practice impossible patience  
or unleash your holy rage...  
whether none of these words ring true  
or a little bit of all of them do,  
may the Sacred be your companion  
Love with you, for you, within you.*

In Christ,

*Rev. Lauren Cain*

Rev. Lauren Cain, pastor

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
927 North Franklin Street  
Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464  
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Fax: 610-323-0178  
Church E-Mail: [StPaulUCCPtn@aol.com](mailto:StPaulUCCPtn@aol.com)  
Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccpot>

[tstown](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccpot)  
Website: [www.StPaulsPottstown.org](http://www.StPaulsPottstown.org)

### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.  
Social Hour – beginning at 8:30 a.m.  
and continuing after worship

### **Church Staff**

Rev. Lauren Cain, Pastor  
484-297-9707

[reverendlaurencain@gmail.com](mailto:reverendlaurencain@gmail.com)

Andrea Shollenberger, Secretary  
484-333-2640

[Andiatchurch@aol.com](mailto:Andiatchurch@aol.com)

Barbara Faison, Director of Music,  
Yoga Instructor

Barbara Stouch, Sexton

### **Consistory 2021**

Rick Moser, President 484-948-7515

Frank Chesney, Vice President  
484-236-1085

Dave Risko, Secretary 610-326-7834

Treasurer – Barbara Toroney  
610-721-3605

Deb Cooper  
Trudy Perretta  
Dottie Yocom

***St. Paul's United Church of Christ***  
was founded in 1884 by members  
from Zion's Reformed Church in  
Pottstown. Our first church building  
was located at Penn and Walnut  
Streets.

In 1957, we relocated to our current  
site. Our Christian Education wing  
was built in 1962 to meet the needs  
of our expanding congregation. In  
1978, our present sanctuary was  
begun; it was dedicated in 1980.

2021 is our 137<sup>th</sup> year of ministry.  
St. Paul's continues to grow in faith  
and service with an expanding  
ministry to its members, to our  
community, and to the world. We  
invite you to join us and to make St.  
Paul's your church home.

\* \* \* \* \*

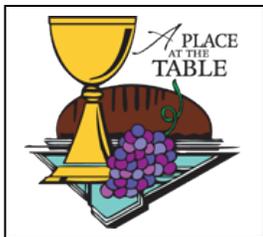
*The St. Paul's Spirit*  
is published monthly by  
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927 North Franklin Street  
Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464

## DISCERNING THE FUTURE... *A Season Of Listening*

Together with the pastor and Consistory, the congregation of St. Paul's is undertaking a period of prayerful discernment. Discernment is, in simple terms, how we seek to know God's will in concrete ways. It is clear, St. Paul's is in a better position today than it was just a few years ago but what we are doing now is not sustainable, financially or spiritually. In order to be faithful to all that God is calling us to, we are beginning this journey together in prayer. You are asked to offer the following prayer every day during the next month as you hold our church in prayer in this first stage of discernment...

*Lord, who are we? What are the strengths that you have gifted us with? Lord, who are our neighbors? What are their needs and gifts? Gracious God, after listening to your voice, how shall we respond? Open our hearts and ears to your guidance and help us to be brave and faithful as your church. Amen.*

Save the date: Congregation Discernment Forum -  
Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup>



## COMMUNION DECEMBER 5 & 24

We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion on December 5, and again on **Christmas**

**Eve**, December 24. You can bring your own bread and wine, or we will have wafers and individual closed containers of wine and grape juice. If you will be joining us on-line, have your bread and wine handy so that you can participate.



## THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped to make our Holiday Bazaar a success! A total of \$2212 was deposited in the General Fund.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars! We will be holding an All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 5th! Tickets are \$6 for Adults; \$3.50 for kids ages 6-12; and kids age 5 and under are FREE! Be sure to join us for a delicious breakfast!



## COMMUNITY MEAL

St. Paul's will be preparing and serving the community Meal at First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, December 16. Please see Dottie Yocom to volunteer or for more info.



## DIRECTORY UPDATE

We will be updating our Church Directory for 2022. If you have had a change of address, phone number, or email address, please give the new information to Andi in the church office by December 19.

## FOR YOUR REFLECTION

The following are the lectionary scriptures for this month:



**December 5** – Baruch 5: 1-9 or Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6  
**December 12** – Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7; Luke 3: 7-18  
**December 19** – Micah 5: 2-5a; Luke 1: 46b-55 or Psalm 80: 1-7; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39 – 45 (46-55)  
**December 26** – 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3: 12-17; Luke 2: 41-52  
**January 2** – Jeremiah 31: 7-14 or Sirach 24: 1-12; Psalm 147: 12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10: 15-21; Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1: (1-9), 10-18

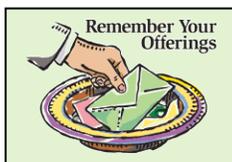
## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Celebrate with these members and friends of St. Paul's family having birthdays in December. If we missed your birthday, please notify the office.



4	Lynda Zeleznick
5	Cerrissa Graham
11	Sean Turnbach
14	Barb Hurter, Janet Millard
24	Stanley Sands
27	Barb Stouch
30	Pastor Lauren Cain

## STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE



If you are not attending worship in person, please feel free to mail your Sunday contributions to the church office. They will be taken care of on a weekly basis. Your continued donations are appreciated.

## ST. PAUL'S VISITATION LIST



Ginny Bernhart – 12 S. Reading Ave., Boyertown, PA 19512, 610-369-1430

Dolly Gift – LifeQuest #E-10-B, 2450 John Fries Highway, Quakertown, PA 18951 (Call 215-536-0770 to be transferred to her phone)

Barbara Hurter – Knoll Lane, Apt. D-4, Gilbertsville, PA 19518, 610-505-6750

Barbara Lessig - Keystone Villa, Room 319, 1152 Benjamin Franklin Hwy., Douglassville 19518

Janet Millard – 872 Crestview Lane, Pottstown, PA 19464

### Financial Snapshot

General Fund Income as of 11/26/21	\$ 86,446
General Fund Expenses as of 11/26/21	<u>\$ 84,135</u>
Year to Date Overage	(\$ 2,311)

## ADOPT A BILL

If you would like to adopt all or part of any of the church's regular monthly bills, please mark your check appropriately, and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Andi in the church office.



A few ideas to make Christmas extra special this year!...

- Read a few of your Christmas cards out loud, then pray for the person who sent the card.
- Wrap a jigsaw puzzle that the family will open and do together on Christmas afternoon. Make popcorn and hot cocoa, or some other favorite holiday treat.

**Show us your art!** Draw your own version of the nativity scene and email it to Pastor Lauren. Art will be posted on Facebook and possibly the next newsletter.

## Christmas

### SCAVENGER HUNT

<input type="checkbox"/> Candy Canes	<input type="checkbox"/> Snowman
<input type="checkbox"/> Reindeer	<input type="checkbox"/> Sleigh
<input type="checkbox"/> Wreath	<input type="checkbox"/> Ornaments
<input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Colored Lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Angel
<input type="checkbox"/> Santa	<input type="checkbox"/> Bells
<input type="checkbox"/> Snowflake	<input type="checkbox"/> Candle in a window
<input type="checkbox"/> Poinsettia	<input type="checkbox"/> Elf

## 'Tis the Season

Across		Down	
2.	10.	1.	5.
6.	11.	3.	8.
7.	12.	4.	9.

## Holiday Bucket List

*Be*

1. Buy presents

2. Wrap gifts *someone in a hug*

3. Send gifts *love*

*Donate*

4. Shop for food

5. Make cookies *memories*

*Be*

6. See the lights

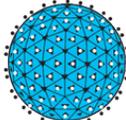
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*Wishing everyone a  
Very Merry  
Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!*





# 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Andi Vacation	<b>2</b> Andi Vacation Worship Team 6: 30 p.m.	<b>3</b> Andi Vacation	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> COMMUNION Worship 9:00 a.m. PANCAKES	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Worship Team 6: 30 p.m.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Worship 9:00 a.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Worship Team 6: 30 p.m.	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Worship 9:00 a.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  First Day of Winter	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Candlelight Service Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m.	<b>25</b>  Merry Christmas!
<b>26</b> Worship 9:00 a.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  New Year's Eve	