

*St. Paul's  
United Church of Christ  
104 Green Street  
Sellersville PA 18960*

Phone: 215-257-7268

Fax: 215-257-0902

Web: [www.stpaulsucc.net](http://www.stpaulsucc.net)

### **Staff**

- ◆ Rev. Patti Thomas,  
Pastor
- ◆ Nancy Ziegenfuss,  
Director of Christian  
Education
- ◆ Christopher Ziegenfuss,  
Choir Director
- ◆ Peter Ziegenfuss,  
Handbell Choir Director
- ◆ Ruth Schoeller, Organist
- ◆ James Stover, Assistant  
Organist
- ◆ Karen Weikel,  
Secretary, Newsletter  
Editor
- ◆ Cindy Bibic,  
Financial Secty.
- ◆ Dennis Hurchalla,  
Custodian

---

*Weekly Worship ~  
8 AM and 10:15 AM*

*Sunday School ~ 9 AM*



Every year, we promise ourselves that we are going to cut back, simplify, and have a family Christmas that focuses on the real reason for the season ~ Jesus! But every year, the stores are decorated for Christmas shoppers earlier and earlier, advertisements beckon, the children write out their lengthy WANT list from the latest toy catalogues ... and it seems easier just to indulge our wants and whims. Overspending, materialism, and busyness rob us of our peace and joy Jesus of His rightful role as the center of our celebration.

This Advent season I invite you to give a special gift to yourself ~ that is, the gift of time to experience the peace of knowing that God is truly with us, the joy of giving sacrificially, and the love of a Savior who gave everything He had for us. I invite you to join me for a 5-week Advent Bible study entitled: "Christmas Is NOT Your Birthday."

For your convenience, this Bible Study will be offered on two different days at two different locations:

- ✓ 9 AM, Tuesday morning @ Rockhill Mennonite  
Community: Nov. 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18
- ✓ 7 PM, Wednesday evening @ St. Paul's; Nov. 14,  
28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19.

Bring your Bible! Bring your thoughts! Bring yourself and, together, let us experience the joy of living and giving like Jesus.

*~ Pastor Patti*

## ~ SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER ~

- **Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- Worship, 8 am and 10:15 am.
- Sunday School for all ages, 9 am.
- Crossroads, 9 am.
- Theme ~ Wherever You Go
- Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9  
John 11:32-44
- Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

**ALL-SAINTS SUNDAY ~**

a celebration of all the saints, remembering and thanking God for the lives of those who have gone before us since November of 2011. Those who have lost a loved one are invited to name and light a candle in memory of that person. Also, those children who were baptized since November of 2011 will be recognized.



- **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- Worship, 8 am and 10:15 am.
- Sunday School for all ages, 9 am.
- Theme ~ Risk and Restoration
- Scriptures: Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17  
Mark 12:38-44
- Begin to order Christmas Poinsettias.
- Youth Group, 7 pm.
- Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

\* \* \* \* \*

- **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- Music Appreciation Sunday and Reception for Ruth Schoeller**

**ONE SERVICE, 10:15 am**

- Sunday School for all ages, 9 am.
- Theme: Praise the Holy One.
- Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 / Mark 13:1-8
- Joyful Noise loose change offering.
- Strengthen the Church offering.
- Distribution of Thanksgiving baskets for our sick and homebound.
- Confirmation, 5 pm.
- Coffee, Cookies and Conversation.

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH THANK OFFERING ~ November 18 ~

#### **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Through our gifts to Strengthen the Church, we build the future of the United Church of Christ by funding The Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation.

The God is Stillspeaking Ministry spreads the message of God's extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt there is no room for them within Christianity and the church ~ the excluded and alienated, the spiritually homeless, the questioning. Please give generously.

*Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you...As God has sent me, so I send you."  
When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

-John 20:19

## ~ SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER ~

- **Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> , Reign of Christ Sunday**
    - Sunday School for all ages, 9 am.
    - Worship at 8 and 10:15 am.
    - Theme ~ A Wise Reign
    - Scriptures: Revelation 1:4b-8 / John 18:33-37
    - Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation.
- 

### **Community Thanksgiving Eve Service November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm.**

to be hosted by St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church with the Rev. Julie Bergdahl preaching,  
and Rev. Patti Thomas as liturgist.  
The combined choirs will feature selections of music.



---

### **~ Operation CHRISTMAS CHILD Samaritan's Purse ~**

It's that time of year again ~



Shoobox brochures are now in the Narthex. Please take a brochure and fill a shoebox with those suggestions listed. These shoeboxes go to over 100 countries.

Pick up a shoebox in the Narthex or purchase a plastic box from Walmart for 96 cents. Walmart also has small toys like a slinky, etch-a-sketch and lots of cars, and t-shirts for one dollar.

Did you know the plastic shoeboxes are used by the families to mix their dinners in for they have few utensils.

Give some child joy and a chance to learn about our Savior. Jesus said,  
*"Give to the least of them and you give to me."*

Any questions, see Janet Dunlap.

**Deadline for boxes: Before November 14th**

# Family Fun Nights are FUN!

“Well, I’d say that was a really, really GREAT party!” that was the comment made by one child who attended the Family Fun Night Game Night on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Five families came out and enjoyed a meal of salad, pasta, meatballs and sauce, bread and desserts followed by games of all kinds. Highlights were an intense game of air hockey and multiple church members getting tangled up playing Twister.



The fun continued on October 12<sup>th</sup>, as 9 families attended a hayride and bonfire at Merrymead Farm. Bundled up in winter coats, hats and mittens, 38 people boarded two wagons full of hay pulled by a tractor for an hour long hayride under star-filled skies. Just a short drive from the Farm, the group enjoyed S’mores, hot cocoa and other seasonal treats around a bonfire.

If you missed these two Family Fun Nights, not to worry. There’s more fun on the way! The next Family Fun Night is scheduled for Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

Three families have agreed to host various dinner courses at their homes as we enjoy the fun of a **Progressive Dinner**. Visit with the Baringer family for appetizers at 6 pm. Journey to the Ziegenfuss family for the main course. Top off the night at the Allen residence for dessert.

Sign up in the Narthex or contact Nancy Ziegenfuss if you want to attend. Deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Christmas Caroling** is next on the agenda for December 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Family Fun Night with more information to come.

Do you have any suggestions or ideas for future Family Fun Nights? We’re beginning to plan for 2013, so pass along your ideas to Nancy Ziegenfuss.



~ Nancy Ziegenfuss

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE** . . at the Sellersville Museum and be up the weekend of November 10<sup>th</sup> . Tags will be items and gift cards for kids and teens as well as hats, mittens, and gloves for children, teens and adults. Items can be returned to St. Paul's (large box outside of office) by December 12, UNWRAPPED, please. Wrapping supplies – paper, gift boxes, tissue paper, tape, bows, gift tags, are also needed.



**TURKEYS for FISH** ~ Pennridge FISH is in need of turkeys for their holiday meal they supply for eligible families. In the past, we have collected your turkeys earned by certificates. This year, Landis Supermarket has a new way of getting your turkey to FISH.

- ◆ Shop with your Landis Go Card now through November 15<sup>th</sup> and earn one Turkey Reward point for every dollar you spend. There are no certificates to collect. Simply check your receipt for your accumulated points and reward eligibility each shopping trip through the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.
- ◆ Redeem all your points in a single shopping trip between Friday, November 16 and Saturday, November 24.
- ◆ Simply tell the cashier you would like to donate your earned turkey to Pennridge FISH.
- ◆ If you have any questions, feel free to check with Customer Service at Landis' or see Brenda Clark.

*Thank you for your continuing your support of this worthy program to benefit FISH during the holiday season.*

**ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!!**

Order your poinsettias by filling out the form below or sign up on the bulletin board. Please post your name(s) as you would like it printed in the bulletin. Cost will be \$6.00 for a beautiful flowering plant. **Please pay Lucille Moore directly.**



Deadline to order: Sunday, December 2  
Money due by Sunday, December 9.

\_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
No.

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
No.

\_\_\_\_\_ "To the Glory of God"  
No.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed



## **The Christmas Shoppe: An ADVENT Experience for CHILDREN**



This is an exciting event planned for Advent for the Sunday School children.

For the month of December, during Sunday School hour, the three youngest classes will combine to participate in *The Christmas Shoppe: An Advent Experience for Children.*

The Christmas Shoppe is an event where children of all ages will hear the Christmas story, create Christmas symbols through crafts, and prepare and participate in a Christmas program presented during worship on December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Christmas Shoppe will be held in Fellowship hall. Because we will be trying to fit so much in during the Sunday School hour in Advent, Sunday School will dismiss at 10:10 am for the month of December.

~ Nancy Ziegenfuss, C.E. Director

---



Stewardship  
of the Earth

### **Stewardship of the Earth “Honor and Preserve All of God’s Creation”**

#### **Go Green ~ Start at the TAP**

We’ve read many tips on how to go green in your home. Energy-star appliances and energy-efficient windows and light bulbs are very important. But changing your water usage can have the most impact. Here are several tips that will help you conserve water and save money:

1. Replace older toilets (pre-1992) with new high efficiency toilets.  
This could save 11 gallons of water per toilet per day.
2. Turning off the tap when brushing your teeth can save nearly 3,000 gallons of water per year.
3. Update your bathrooms with new water-sense lavatory faucets.
4. Always turn the water off between tasks. Letting the faucet run for 5 minutes uses as much energy as burning a 60 watt bulb for 14 hours.
5. Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
6. Take a shower rather than a bath and install a water-saving showerhead.
7. Wash your clothes with cold water and save 50% of energy per cycle.  
Tide cold-water detergent will get them clean.
8. Fix those leaks. Leaky faucets can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year.

*How many of these tips can you start to follow right now?*

~ Nancy Lyons

## Our Church Family

As previously announced, *Ruth Schoeller*, our organist will be retiring effective December 31<sup>st</sup>. To honor Ruth, a Reception will be held immediately following the service on November 18<sup>th</sup> (Music Appreciation Sunday)  
~ You are invited to join in the celebration ~

Thank You to  
**Our Organist,**  
RUTH



**CROP WALK** Update. . .

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, St. Paul's walkers walked the CROP Walk. We were delighted with so many walkers ~ a good time was had by all as we spent the afternoon walking for the hungry. We will be having a count soon, as to the final tally.

Please remember: if you sponsored a walker, please pay, and if you took a sponsor sheet, please return them to Nancy Lyons or Brenda Clark as soon as possible. All forms must be returned, used or not.

**Winterfest!!**

~ St. Paul's will be a trolley stop during Sellersville's Winterfest this year.

~ Date is Tuesday, December 4 ~

Back by popular demand will be the Valley Steel Drum Ensemble. Watch for more information on the plans for that night as they are finalized. Don't miss it!



## Opportunities to serve. . .



**Thanksgiving Baskets** filled with fruit, cookies and goodies will be packed for our sick and homebound on Saturday, November 17, 9 a.m. Please stop by to help assemble the baskets so they may be distributed on Sunday, November 18. Your contributions of cookies or cakes would also be appreciated. You are encouraged to take a basket with you on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and deliver it to the member so noted on the card (address is supplied). The members enjoy the baskets along with your personal visit.

---

---



### **COOKIES, COFFEE, CONVERSATION**

following late church each Sunday...  
please sign up on the clipboard sheet in Fretz Hall.  
Bring some cookies, a cold drink, and make some coffee!

---

---



*“Thank you to everyone who helped to make St. Paul’s Chicken Pot Pie Dinner another success! Many, many people were involved ~ making the noodles, cooking and pulling chicken, preparing the dinner that day and those who helped in every way, to serve our many (over 200) guests!”*

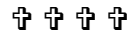
*Thanks again!  
Karen Weaver, Pat & Buster Guth,*



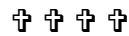


**...BETHANY CHILDREN'S HOME** ~ The Christmas Gift Wish List for the children of Bethany will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex shortly. Please bring your gifts to the church office, unwrapped, by Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup>.

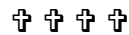
~ The Bethany Children's offering will be supported on Sunday, December 2 ~



**... BLOODMOBILE** will be at St. Paul's on December 19<sup>th</sup> ~ Please mark this date ~



**... GIVING ENVELOPES for 2013** will be available in November.



**...BULLETIN and FLOWER CHARTS for 2013** will be posted the first Sunday in December. Please sign up to sponsor a Sunday by placing your name after the date or dates you wish to sponsor. You may also sponsor the Bulletin (cost is \$10) for a Sunday. You will be contacted close to the date you sponsor.

---

## Thoughts To Ponder

### Fruitful

*Look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.  
The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life. ~ John 4:35-36*

Where do all these apples come from? I wondered, looking out over an orchard for the first time. Apparently, an apple contains up to ten seeds. Just imagine if all those seeds grew into new apple trees: those trees would produce apples that would produce seeds that would produce more trees and on and on. The number of trees and apples that could eventually come from one apple is amazing.

Aren't believers supposed to be like that apple? As God renews us in the image of Christ, we are meant to bear spiritual fruit. Through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit at work in us, we can become more loving, more joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, generous, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled (Gal.5:22-23). These are the fruits God wants to grow in us. And other people will see these fruits growing in us as well. Perhaps they will be attracted to Christ by the good fruit they see in us. Then the seed of our spiritual fruit can be planted and grow to produce a harvest to new believers.



~ submitted by Richard Moyer

---

---

## Thoughts To Ponder

### COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

Henry Alford, 1810-1871

*It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord,  
and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most high. Psalm 92:1*

Our early American leaders wisely realized the importance of having a special day each year in which people could recount their blessings and express gratitude to God for all of His goodness.

The first thanksgiving was decreed by Governor Bradford in 1621 to commemorate the Pilgrims' harvest. Later, George Washington proclaimed November 26, 1789, as a national day of thanksgiving, but the holiday was not repeated on a national basis until Abraham Lincoln named it a national Harvest Festival on November 26, 1861. After that time, the holiday was proclaimed annually by the President and the governors of each state. Finally in 1941, Congress passed a bill naming the fourth Thursday of each November as Thanksgiving Day.

The first stanza of this harvest hymn is an invitation and an exhortation to give thanks to God in His earthly temple—our local church—for the heavenly care and provision of our earthly needs. The following two stanzas are an interesting commentary on the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares as recorded in Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. The final stanza is a prayer for the Lord's return - "the final harvest home."



Come, ye thankful people, come—raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin. God, our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied: Come to God's own temple, come—raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto His praise to yield; Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear: Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take His harvest home: From His field shall in that day all offenses purge away—give His angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord quickly come to Thy final harvest-home: gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin; there forever purified, in Thy presence to abide: come, with all Thine angels, come - raise the glorious harvest-home.

---

**FOR TODAY:** I Chron. 16:8, 9; Ps. 68:19; Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43; Hebrews 13:15

---

The worship most acceptable to God comes from a thankful heart. Carry this musical truth with you...

*God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:  
Come to God's own temple, come—Raise the song of harvest home.*

~ Ruth Schoeller