

THE CLEAR VOICE

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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NOVEMBER 2019



Give Thanks to the Lord

Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 23

9:00 to 3:00

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 3

Turn your clocks back one hour

Interfaith

Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24

7:00 PM Ss. Philip and James Church



Stewardship Sunday is November 10 as we celebrate and thank God for our many blessings and dedicate ourselves to passing those blessings on to the church and to others. **Congregational Meeting is November 17.** We will review the 2020 budget, vote on constitution changes, and choose consistory members. We still need people to fill the seats on Consistory that are vacant due to board members who have completed their terms. Please see anyone on the Nominating Committee if you are interested: Greg Allen, Rob Tochtermann, Lauren Alexandro, Sue Shoop, Ryan VanderMeulen, or Mary Lou Esposito.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

On a recent sleepy Saturday morning, I happened to be peering over Sam's shoulder as he ate his breakfast while leafing through a Christmas toy catalog. I got very excited when I saw the following:

Hot Wheels Advent Calendar

Unlock surprises on the first day of December for a countdown to Christmas in Hot Wheels style! Includes eight decorated Hot Wheels and 16 accessories. Ages 43+ . . . I mean, 3+.

(You should know, dear reader, that playing with Hot Wheels and Matchbox cars was one of my great passions in the days of my youth. I still have many of the cars that I collected back then, and I would be lying if I said that I didn't still play with them from time to time. You should hear my imitation of a Ferrari engine roaring into high gear.)

But I digress. Upon seeing this advertisement, I decided to put out some feelers:

"Oh. My. Goodness. Liza, look at this! A Hot Wheels Advent Calendar! This is like a childhood dream come true!" I said.

Liza, without looking up, said, "I thought we didn't believe in Advent calendars that are just about buying more toys?"

She was right, of course. But I had to give it one last desperate try: "I think that maybe the church would make a special dispensation for Hot Wheels."

Silence. Like the punch that Ali never threw against Foreman.

I mention this because Stewardship Sunday is coming up. On November 10, we will take some time as a congregation to re-dedicate ourselves to the ministry of stewardship that God gives to each one of us. There is one question at the heart of this ministry: How can we be responsible caretakers of the gifts that God entrusts to us? This is not just about how much money we set aside to support the mission of St. Paul's, or whether we decide to spend \$19.99 on a box of toy cars for Advent, but about how our understanding of stewardship comes to shape our whole lives? As Liza put it, it really comes down to what we *believe*. Our faith teaches us that everything in heaven and earth belongs to God. Including us. In our world we may use offhand phrases like "disposable income," but can we square this with a gospel-oriented vision of life?

During this season of Thanksgiving and Stewardship, I invite you to think about how your faith informs the decisions you make about saving, spending, and giving. How are you inspired by God's generosity? How can you share the gifts you have received to become a partner with God in the healing and redemption of the world? There is a beautiful promise at the center of God's call to us: as stewards of God's gifts and grace, we are not merely middle managers – we are, by the presence and power of the risen Christ, agents of his peace and bearers of his good news.

That's something to get excited about! As for Hot Wheels . . . well, I'm hoping that Santa might leave a couple in my stocking.

Jonathan

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3

ALL SAINTS DAY

Worship and Communion at 9:00 and 10:30 AM, Sunday School at 9:00 AM

Scriptures: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 119:137-144 • Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7 • 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 • Luke 19:1-10

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 AM, Sunday School at 9:00 AM

Scriptures: Haggai 1:15b-2:9 and Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 • Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9 • 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 • Luke 20:27-38

Flowers: Given by the Hessinger Family in Honor and in Memory of our veterans

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17

ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Breakfast and Congregational Meeting at 9:00, Worship at 10:30 AM

Scriptures: Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12 • Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98 • 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 • Luke 21:5-19

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24

Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 AM, Sunday School at 9:00 AM

7:00 PM Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Ss Philip and James Catholic Church

Scriptures: Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79 • Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46 • Colossians 1:11-20 • Luke 23:33-43

INTERFAITH ACTION COMMUNITY

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24 at 7:00 PM

Ss. Philip and James Roman Catholic Church

On Sunday, November 24, at 7:00PM, the IAC and Exton-Lionville Ministerium invite the community to the 2nd annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This year's service will be hosted by Ss. Philip and James Roman Catholic Church. You are invited to bring a non-perishable item for the Chester County Food Bank (no pork products please), and to bring a small plate of finger foods (non-meat) for the reception which will follow the service. The theme of this year's service is "The Pursuit of Peace," as participants will raise prayers from a diversity of traditions about the meaning and blessing of peace.

Monthly Book Club

Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 PM at St. Paul's

The Interfaith Action Community is continuing their monthly book club at St. Paul's on Tuesday, November 12, from 7:00-8:30 PM. Discussion will continue on the second half of Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. You can pick up a copy of the book at your local library. Come on out to join in an interesting conversation and to meet some new friends from other faith communities in our area.

FELLOWSHIP

1st Friday Fun Night — *Friday, November 1 at 6:00*

Join us on the first Friday of each month, from 6-8 PM, for great food, fellowship, and fun. Sign up in the social hall. Bring a covered dish for our Friendsgiving celebration

Lunch Bunch — *Tuesday, November 12 at 11:30 am Cracker Barrel - Downingtown*

The lunch bunch will dine at Cracker Barrel (1215 E. Lancaster Ave. Downingtown) on Tuesday November 12. See the bulletin board in the social hall to sign up. Everyone is welcome!

Men's Breakfast — *Friday, November 8, November 22*

The men of St. Pauls meet at Green Street Grill (150 E Pennsylvania Ave, Downingtown) at 7:30 AM on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. No sign-up. Just come start your day with some food and fellowship.

Bible Study – *Every Wednesday Morning at 10:00*

The new season of Bible study is in full swing. Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 (11:00 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month) to learn more about selected Bible texts, share good company with a group that loves to laugh, and enjoy hot coffee and treats.

HOW CAN YOU HELP BOOST ST. PAUL'S MESSAGE?

This article revolves around how to boost the signal of happenings here at St. Paul's. I'm sure you've all heard of facebook; it is one the best social media platforms to get the word out about community happenings. Many of you have facebook accounts, and St. Paul's also has a facebook page. Here are some ways those of you using facebook can help boost our message to the community.

1. Please "**like**" St. Paul's page. Our page title is "St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Exton, PA".
2. If you haven't done so yet, write a review for the church and give us a 5 star rating.
3. When you see a new post from the church, "**like**" the post.
4. Write a nice comment about any church post.
5. If it's something your own facebook friends might be interested in, "**share**" the post to your own page.
6. If it's something a group you belong to might be interested in, "**share**" the post to that group.
7. If the church post is to an event, click "**Interested**" or "**Attending**".

Even if you have a facebook account but "you're never on facebook" take a minute and complete 1 and 2 above. It will only take a minute! If you have questions about how to do any of the actions listed above ask Nancy Greger or Lisa Allen.

*Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them,
is the true measure of our thanksgiving.*

W.T. Purkiser

ST. PAUL'S MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Monthly Worship Services at Exton Senior Living

Wednesday November 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Join Pastor Jonathan as he leads worship on the second Wednesday of each month for residents at Exton Senior Living, this month on November 13. Each service includes music, prayer, a brief sermon, and communion. Come be a part of this ministry! We gather in the large group room on the main floor, straight down the hall and on the left when you pass the reception desk.

Pastor Jonathan has also started a monthly worship time for the residents on the memory care wing, on the 3rd floor. If you would like to join him for the next visit, on Tuesday November 19 at 2PM, please let him know. It would be wonderful to get some church members involved in both of our Exton Senior Living outreach ministries.

Dinner Ministry at Atkinson Men's Shelter

St. Pauls serves dinner on the first and second Monday of each month at Atkinson Men's Shelter in Coatesville. Volunteers to join a cooking/serving group or to contribute funds to defray the costs of food are always welcome. Contact Diane Battilana for more information. This month's volunteers – Joanne Propsner, Katrina Draves, Liza Hauze, Leah Foster, Marcy Hessinger

Food Bank

When you do your weekly grocery shopping, make sure to pick up an item or two for our food bank; distribution basket is in the social hall. St. Paul's helps stock the Lord's Pantry in Downingtown.

*Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need;
the remainder is needed by others.*

Saint Augustine

Deacons encourage you to enroll in St. Paul's electronic giving plan. It's safe, easy, and eliminates weekly counting errors. Download the form from the resources section of the church website and e-mail to the church. Or see any consistory member. <http://www.saintpaulsucc.net/index.php/resources>

Giant gift cards in denominations of \$100, \$50, and \$25 are on sale in the social hall each Sunday at 10:00 AM. Buy the card at face value and use it at any Giant to buy groceries. Giant sells the cards to us at a discount so the church receives 5.00 for every \$100 we sell.

Remember to use Amazon Smile for your online purchases. St. Paul's earns 0.5% when you use Amazon Smile and it doesn't cost you anything additional.

Ursinus Association Fall Meeting

The Fall Meeting of our Association is Sunday, November 3, at Brownback's UCC in Spring City. Registration begins at 2:30 PM with worship, program and meeting to follow at 3:00 PM.

Come and hear the story of how a center city church re-visioned its ministry. Along with information from the Conference office, there will be updates from the Committee on Ministry regarding continuing education requirements. We will elect representation to the new conference-wide Member-In-Discernment team. Please join us!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all of the volunteers who help make St. Pauls a vibrant, welcoming community.
Consider volunteering for one of the following:

Greet members and visitors before the service

Read scripture passages during worship

Host Coffee Hour – Bring Home Made or Store Bought – It’s all good!

See Joan Trimble or sign up on the church website: <https://saintpaulsucc.net/ministry/volunteer>

Teach Sunday School or Help in the classroom. See Lisa Allen for documents needed.

Sunday Sexton - Arrive at church a little early OR stay a little late to get the church ready for worship. Tasks are posted on the paper closet door in the social hall and kitchen.

Sponsor Altar Flowers to honor or remember a loved one. (Cost: \$25)

Give a Ride to members who don’t drive –

Peter Will lives on Edge Lane in Thorndale, about a mile off of Rt. 30

Mary Lee Sailer and Rosemary Meyer live at Ashbridge Manor on Lancaster Pike in Downingtown.
Sign up in the Social Hall

Consider a rotation on Consistory; Trustees care for the church building and grounds, Deacons monitor finances, and Elders look after the spiritual well-being of the church family.

2020 consistory members are being sought now.

See Sue Shoop, Greg Allen, Rob Tochtermann, Ryan VanderMeulen, or Mary Lou Esposito

Feed the Hungry - There is always room for another helping hand on one of our Atkinson Dinner teams.

See Diane Battilana

Make a Joyful Noise - Join our choral or bell choir.

Talk to Steph Esposito-Olcese or Ryan VanderMeulen

Help Out at the Holiday Fair or at VBS. Or suggest something that’s not on this list.

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

November Birthdays

1	Ralph Esposito Jessica Allen	17	Terry Lewis Leah Foster
6	Margarito Davila Rose Danese	19	Caisa Baumann Lillian Baumann
11	Polly Levering Cameron Wallace	24	Tom Schneller
14	Marcy Hessinger	29	Jeff Behrndt
		30	Tom Phillips

November Anniversaries

1	Russ & Sheri Brierley – ‘97
9	Mary Lou & Ralph Esposito – ‘68
11	John & Rose Danese – ‘89



ST. PAUL'S HOLIDAY FAIR

November 23 from 9:00 to 3:00.
Auction ends at 2:00

The Holiday Fair is St. Paul's largest yearly fund raiser. You can assist now by helping obtain and assemble auction baskets. The auction basket tree is now available in the social hall as are forms that you can present to merchants when asking for donations. Also, consider volunteering for one of the myriad tasks on the day of and week leading up to the fair. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon. Contact Joan Trimble – this year's chair, if you'd like to volunteer.

Volunteers Needed for ...

- Setting up and taking down decorations
- Help on the day of the fair

Donations Needed for ...

- Adult Themed Auction Baskets
- Child Themed Auction Baskets
- Monetary Donations to defray cost of food are welcome
- Gently Used items for our Attic Treasures Room - Please no books or clothing

Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about the fair.
Come on out, have lunch, and shop.

8 Vendors

Santa Room

Attic Treasures

And Much More

Children's Room

Delicious Lunch



PA Southeast Conference 2019 Fall Meeting

The 2019 Fall Meeting of the Conference will be held at Ursinus College on Sunday, November 17th from 2:30-5:30PM.

How do your OCWM contributions benefit your Pastor, your members, and your youth?

What were the Resolutions at General Synod all about, and how do they affect your church?

These are just a few of the questions that we will answer at the Fall Meeting. Join us and learn what is happening in the PSE Conference and how your church benefits! Registration opens at 2:30PM Meeting begins at 3:00PM. Register at <https://psec2019fall.eventbrite.com> .

CHURCH CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

6:00 PM First Friday

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am

9:00 am Church School

11:45 Choir Practice

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

6:30 PM Atkinson Center Dinner

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

7:15 PM Bell Choir

All Day Voting Day

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

10:00 AM Bible Study

6:00 PM Just for Today

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

7:30 AM Men's Breakfast

(Green Street Grill – Downingtown)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am

9:00 am Church School

11:45 Choir Practice

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

6:30 PM Atkinson Center Dinner

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

11:30 AM Lunch Bunch meets

at Cracker Barrel - Downingtown

7:15 PM Bell Choir

7:00 PM IAC Book Group meets at St. Pauls

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:00 AM Bible Study

2:00 PM Worship at Exton Sr. Living

6:00 PM Just for Today

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am

9:00 am Church School

11:45 Choir Practice

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9 AM -12 Lionville Mom's Club

7:00 PM Consistory

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

2:00 PM Worship at Exton Sr. Living

7:15 PM Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

11:00 AM Bible Study

6:00 PM Just for Today

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

7:30 AM Men's Breakfast

(Green Street Grill – Downingtown)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

9:00 – 3:00 Holiday Fair

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am

9:00 am Church School

11:45 am Choir Practice

7:00 pm Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

At Ss. Philip and James Catholic Church

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

7:15 PM Bell Choir

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

10:00 AM Bible Study

6:00 PM Just for Today

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Give Thanks for God's Blessings