



Saint Paul's Possibilities

January 12, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

The next couple of weeks are significant in the life of our faith community. While I am grateful we often have eventful and significant weeks of service, fellowship and worship, I am particularly excited for the next few weeks.

Today, Thursday, will be our first Fresh Express of 2023 and while the Food Bank had no protein available (i.e. fish, chicken, pork, etc.,) thanks to the gifts from you, our faith community, we have enough pantry stock to ensure each family gets meat for their meals. Then, this Sunday, while we will remember our own Baptisms, we will welcome several new members, celebrate the baptism of Katy Mahon, and offer a blessing for Gus, Katy's new, emotional support puppy. What a day of celebration this will be!

Next week, we celebrate Saint Paul's Ministries of 2022, review our 2022 Financial picture, offer as many details of our way forward as we know at this time, and then share in a meal together around the table, sharing stories and fellowship as we plan for more eventful weeks and months ahead.

I must tell you - I am grateful for all the ways we share being church in service, fellowship and worship. It is how we are church. It's who we are. We have come from many different faith backgrounds - some from no faith background - and yet, we all surround one another and truly walk life's journey together.

As I shared with Saint Paul's Church Staff this week in our first staff meeting of the year, one of the most beautiful things about Saint Paul's is our ability to be the church together. No one person is the church alone: Russ brings the gifts of leading us in music as our Minister of Music; Sharon brings her gifts of playing, sharing her beautiful voice to lift God up in praise as our Assistant Minister of Music (we can't forget her cooking either, what a gift that is!); Donna, her excellent administrative and bookkeeping skills,

right along with her ability to be the face of Saint Paul's greeting, welcoming, and caring for anyone who comes through our door; Steve and his exceptional knack of keeping our church house clean, orderly, and inviting; and Bob Greenly for tending to the exterior of our building so meticulously. We are blessed by each of these individuals, yet not one of them, nor myself, is the church alone. We are all the church together, uniquely created and intricately necessary, woven together to be the tapestry called Saint Paul's. And the beauty of it all? Each new gift, each new faith family member, brings with them something unique that God weaves into this tapestry right alongside of all the rest of us, leaving no one out.

There are certainly all kinds of churches to fit every need, want, and desire in a faith community. My hope and prayer is that people will find the place that best suits them and their faith needs. I'm just thankful for us. I'm thankful for your open hearts and minds that say, "Come, sit by me, it's ok - I've been there, too," or, "You aren't alone," or even, "I may not have experienced that, but I know we are here for you."

In fact, this week's message is based on a recent campaign entitled, "He gets us." He gets who we are because he lived and faced situations we live and face, thus Emmanuel, God with us, gets us and where we are in our lives, in each and every faith walk, which means he gets us too, here at Saint Paul's.

So, as we settle in to 2023 and get our sea legs (writing 2023 instead of 2022), planning and seeking to understand what the year ahead may hold, let us pause and give thanks for each other, what has brought us here, and for all that is to come. Because I believe God gets us, God walks with us, and God will forever create us to be God's church, if we but get out of the way, roll up our sleeves, serve others first and foremost, wherever and however we may, because God gets us.

For together we are the church and after all, it's nice to feel that feeling that God gets us. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Peace, Pastor Tim

Would You Join Us in Praying For...

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Dorothy Anderson | Joanna Johnson |
| Linda Beaver | The Leeser Family |
| Judy Brown | Katy Mahon |
| Heather Council | Kasey Milheim |
| The Engle Family | Terra Miller Family |
| Gail Ernest | Ruby Mitch |
| Gladys Fawcett Family | Newton/Anderson Family |
| Terri Fisher | Betsy Pullen |
| Dave Fulton | Chuck Schworer |
| Greyson Greenawalt | Carolyn Wuerdeman |

Updates to our prayer list are made weekly from our Prayers and Love Facebook group and by calling the church office.

On the Journey Together

Sunday, January 15 - New Member Sunday

"Baptism of Our Lord Sunday." On this Sunday we will baptize and welcome new members. If you have not already reached out to Pastor Tim (or even if you have), let him know your intentions and set up a time for questions about membership.

Sunday, January 22 - Following Worship

"Annual All Church Meeting, Luncheon, and Celebration of Saint Paul's Ministries." Join your faith family for our Annual Meeting following worship and then for a potluck lunch and celebration of all of our church ministries of 2022 as well as a look ahead to 2023!

Sunday, February 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

The theme for this year's "Talent Show, Spaghetti, and Mama Palazzo's Meatballs is "Spaghetti on the Farm," and Gloria Lehman says the Palazzo's won't be the only ones cooking something up. Yep, believe it or not, this annual event will be here before we know it! Start planning now for the talent/gift you would like to share. And, start dreaming about Mama Palazzo's Meatballs!! *buon appetito!* If you are dreaming up a talent, contact Gloria Lehman.

Coffee Hour Sponsors

Each Sunday 10 a.m. to 10:30 and 11:30 to 12 noon, join your church family around the tables as we offer a light breakfast and coffee. If you would like to sponsor Coffee Hour or help in any way, please contact Donna in the church office. The next available Sundays open for sponsorship are January 22 and 29. Family members will join you in the kitchen to help set up and prepare the coffee.

Saint Paul's Online Directory

As we journey together and care for one another, did you know that we have a church online directory called "Engage" which provides secure access to a listing of individuals in our church family? You can easily locate an address, phone number, and email to stay in touch, send a note, or make a phone call. Engage also keeps track of your giving history and can be used for online giving. You can create your own Engage account by going to this website on your computer or mobile device where you will create your username and password. If you have questions or need help, contact Donna in the church office.

Sharing Our Gifts

January Little Red Wagon

For the month of January, the focus for our little red wagon will be for gas cards for Sunoco, Turkey Hill, Weis, or iFuel. We often get calls or have neighbors and family in need. Your help in this way will go a long way to showing God's love to others.

2023 Altar Flowers

We have begun to receive reservations for Altar Flowers for 2023, and there are still many Sundays available. If you wish to reserve a Sunday to place flowers in the church in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one, call the church office, or click the 2023 Altar Flowers button on our church website homepage to reserve online. Cost is \$50. Thank you for helping to make our sanctuary so beautiful! And, a big thank you to Susie Gearhart, owner of The Blooming Rooster, who each week creates such stunning floral arrangements!

Life Line Screening

Saint Paul's is happy to welcome to our Fellowship Hall "Life Line Screening - The Power of Prevention" - three times a year. The next scheduled screening is Tuesday, January 31, from 9 to 5 p.m. You may pre-register to receive several non-invasive screenings by calling 1-800-679-5191 and schedule a time on January 31.

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ 
Church Address: 1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847
Church Office Contact: 570-568-1433 / admin@spuccwm.org
Pastor's Email: PastorTim@spuccwm.org
Church Website: <https://www.spuccwm.org>

Upcoming Worship

January 15, 2023

Baptism of Our Lord New Member Sunday

"He Gets Us"

Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: Nora Hockenbrock

Acolyte: Brigid Hagan

Flowers: Donna Spear

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Arnold Family

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

January 22, 2023

Second Sunday After Epiphany

"Mind What Matters"

I Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: Rhonda Newton

Acolyte: Skylar Ritter

Flowers: Valerie Ritter

Coffee Hour Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: A. Henry; D. Spear

January Greeter/Usher Team: Steve & Robin Brown, Chris & Jen Arnold, Amy Mahon, Sue Mahon, George Mull, Carol Clewell

Stewardship

Offering Envelopes

If you are a person or family who likes to use offering envelopes, we have them available. The envelopes are not person specific and may be used by anyone. Each box contains 52 envelopes and may be picked up on Sunday morning, ask an usher, or anytime during the week, just check in with the office. As always, thank you for all you do and all the ways you support this, your faith family!!

Gifts & Offerings January 8, 2023

To all who offer their time, talents and gifts to create this community, our special thanks! It is good always and everywhere to give thanks to God.

Attendance on LIVE: 288

Virtual Reach: 3,136

Attendance In Person: 96 (5 Visitors)

Christian Formation: 40

Plate Giving \$ 1,935.00

Loose Plate \$ 147.00

Online Giving \$ 272.22

Operational Total \$ 2,354.22

Restricted Giving \$ 110.00

Total Giving \$ 2,464.22

Missional Support

You, by way of your Saint Paul's family, provide support for local, regional, and national ministries throughout the year. Some of those supported in the 4th quarter of 2022 were: Haven Ministries in Sunbury, TIME's Jungle Teen Center in Milton, the White Deer and Turbot Township Fire and EMS Departments, as well as our Penn Central UCC and the wider UCC Church. We have received thank you's from each of these organizations who are very grateful for our donations. As always, thank you for helping us all be the church.

Special Note: Your Pastor and Consistory are working hard to have updates on property and building to share with you as a part of our celebration on January 22 following worship. We hope you will plan to be here as we celebrate ministries of 2022 and explore plans for our future.

A time of celebration of who we are and who we are called to be.

Sunday, January 22, 2023

All-Church Meeting, Celebration, and Luncheon

following worship we will celebrate our ministries of 2022, plan for our future, and gather 'round the tables for turkey/gravy, waffles, & mashed potatoes.

Please bring your favorite side or dessert to share.



Saint Paul's United Church of Christ

Saint Paul's Celebrations

Wishing Happy Birthday to...

January 13 – Ray Leeser
January 13 – Piper Wolfe
January 22 – Valerie Ritter
January 23 – Peggy Emory
January 24 – Cory Mahon
January 28 – Earl Fisher
January 30 – Barclay Wilson



Calendar – January 12-19

January 12 – Fresh Express Food Distribution 1-5 p.m.
January 15 – Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9 a.m.
January 15 – Jump Start Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
January 15 – Worship 10:30 a.m.
January 15 – Confirmation Class 5 p.m.
January 16 – Monday Morning Reflections 11 a.m.
January 16 – Volunteer Monday 12-2 p.m.
January 17 – Consistory Meeting 6:30 p.m.
January 17 – Wednesday Interactive 6:05 p.m.

Faith & Family -Time & Talents *#spuconthejourneytogether*

Whether your interest involves music, fellowship, faith formation, and/or service to others, we believe a full-life faith community includes them all. We invite and encourage you to consider joining us for one or multiple opportunities as we begin the new year. There's lots to explore and do as a faith family gets to know and grow deeper relationships together. If there's something you want to learn more about, call the office, ask questions, explore ways to get connected and enjoy some family time. Check out as many as you would like, invite others to join you.

Faith Formation

- **Sunday Morning Jump-Start** – Meeting at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor
- **Children's Church** (ages 3 to 2nd grade) – during a portion of our 10:30 a.m. Worship
- **Confirmation** – Meeting at 5 p.m. each Sunday evening through May
- **Youth & Family Gatherings** – 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5 to 7 p.m. January 22 & February 12

- **(New) Quarterly Special Events** – 2nd to 5th graders, select Sundays 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Monday Morning Reflections** – Meeting at 11 a.m. in the Parlor
- **Wednesday Interactive** – Meeting at 6:05 p.m. in the Parlor
- **(Coming Soon) Happy Hour – Wine & Wisdom** – Date and Time TBD (a regular small group gathering)

Music

- **Chancel Choir** – Rehearsing at 9 a.m. on Sundays in the Sanctuary choir loft.
- **Bell Choir** – Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in the Music Room and returns on January 18
- **Children's Choir** – Returns on January 15 and each Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in the music room

Fellowship

- **Sunday Morning Coffee Hour** – Every Sunday 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- **Faith Family Lunch** – 4th Sunday of each month immediately following Worship. Join us on January 22 for turkey, waffles, mashed potatoes and a 2022 celebration of ministries
- **Friends Who Breakfast** – 2nd or 3rd Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. (returning March 2023)
- And we can't leave out the occasional **Community Research Project** – Dates and Times TBD

A Way to Serve Others

- **Volunteer Monday** – from noon to 2 p.m. Every level of assistance is needed, and we have a great time in fellowship and laughter. Come, roll up your sleeves and get the week started with us.
- **Blood Mobile Canteen** – Select Wednesdays (every other month) and scheduled again for February 1 from 1 to 6 p.m.
- **Fresh Express** – 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month and scheduled for January 12 and 26
- **The Little Red Wagon** – Available weekly in support of our emergency food pantry and neighborhood needs
- **Sharing Our Tables** – Bi-monthly community meal program in conjunction with area churches and scheduled again for Sunday, February 12