

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

The Christmas decorations are coming down. The manger scenes are being packed away. The songs of the angels have been sung. The wise men have returned home.

And now the real work begins.

I've been thinking a lot this week about a poem by Howard Thurman called "The Work of Christmas." Thurman was a theologian, civil rights leader, and pastor who cofounded one of the first integrated, interfaith churches in America. He understood something profound: Christmas isn't just something we celebrate for one day or one season. It's work we do all year long.

Here it is in Thurman's words:

*When the song of the angels is stilled ~ When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and princes are home ~ When the shepherds are back with their flock*

The work of Christmas begins:

*To find the lost ~ To heal the broken ~ To feed the hungry ~ To release the prisoner
To rebuild the nations ~ To bring peace among people ~ To make music in the heart*

That line keeps echoing in my mind, because now, with the season past, it feels a bit hard to make music in the heart, in the midst of all that is happening in our world.

There's war and violence. Arguments and division. Every conversation seems charged. Fear feels louder than hope. Anger and sadness feel stronger than love.

And I find myself asking: Where is the hope we lit candles for during Advent? Where is the peace that surpasses understanding? Where is the joy that can break through any situation? Where is the unconditional love we celebrated at Christmas?

And then Thurman's poem reminds me: The work of Christmas begins now.

Not when everything is perfect. Not when the world is peaceful. Not when it's easy.

Now. When it's hard. When the songs of the angels have been stilled and we're back to everyday life.

We get to do the work and we get to do it together:

To find the lost — the lonely, the isolated, the ones who feel forgotten.

To heal the broken — those carrying grief, trauma, pain we can't see.

To feed the hungry — literally, through Fresh Express, Community Harvest Meals and food pantries; spiritually, through community and care.

To release the prisoner — those trapped by addiction, by systems, by despair.

To rebuild the nations — to work for justice, to stand up for the marginalized, to lift-up voices that can't be heard.

To bring peace among people — even when (especially when) we disagree.

To make music in the heart — to choose hope over fear, love over hate, compassion over judgment.

Please Pray for

Laurie & Kris Anderson
Ben Battenburg
Linda Beaver
Colleen Brandt
Mark Covert
Engle Family
Traci Eschbach
Robin Huffman
Kazakavage Family
Leona Kemmerer
Doug Kister
Dottie Leeser
The Miller Family
Olivia Peneto
Ed & Eileen Prowant
Dave & Barb Wagner
The Wallace Family
Tommy Ward
Russ & Donna Wynn
Unspoken Requests

This isn't easy work. It's exhausting work. It's the kind of work that requires us to roll up our sleeves, rise above the noise, and ask ourselves: What would Jesus do? What does Jesus teach us about living in times that feel like these?

Jesus didn't wait for the world to be peaceful before He fed the hungry.

He didn't wait for everyone to agree before He welcomed the stranger.

He didn't wait for it to be convenient before He stood up for the outcast.

He just did the work. And He invites us to do it with Him.

So, as we enter this new year, I'm praying that we can all be the church that does the work of Christmas—not just in December, but in January, February, March, and every month that follows.

The work of showing up. The work of serving. The work of loving our neighbors—even the ones who are hard to love. The work of making music in the heart when the world feels discordant.

This is who we are. This is what we're called to do. And we don't do it alone—we do it together.

So, let's go. Let's find the lost. Let's heal the broken. Let's feed the hungry. Let's make peace. Let's make music.

The work of Christmas begins. #seeu@TheFarm

With Hope and Love, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Breaking News!!! Please join us in welcoming Nicole Cuer to Team Saint Paul's! Nicole joins our staff as our Ministry Support Coordinator, which means some days she'll be greeting you as you come through our doors, some days she'll be reaching out about volunteer opportunities, and every day she'll be working alongside Pastor Tim and Donna to support you and the ministries of this amazing faith community. You'll find Nicole at the new welcome desk Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please stop by to congratulate her and give her a warm Saint Paul's welcome to our staff!



A Beautiful Year. A Beautiful Year – It Has Begun! Our Wednesday evening Interactive study embarked on a new journey this past week with Barbara Brown Taylor's "A Beautiful Year: Meditations on Faith, Wisdom and Perseverance." Together we'll explore how the rhythms of worship and the church year connect to our everyday lives—discovering how scripture, seasons, and spiritual practices shape our faith journey week by week, month by month. Good news: It's not too late to join us! There's no background knowledge required—no need-to-know church history or requirement to be a theological or biblical guru. Just come with a curious heart and a desire to learn and grow together. Whether you're brand new to faith conversations or have been in church your whole life, there's a place for you at the table. We gather in the Gathering Room each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. For more information, see Pastor Tim or ask anyone who attended—they'll tell you it's worth your time!



Are you looking for dates and times of Saint Paul's @ The Farm Special Events? Point your device camera to the QR for the full list for 2026, or visit our church homepage: <https://www.spuccfarm.org/>



Saint Paul's @ The Farm Annual **Chili Cook-off!**

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Plan now to be with your faith family for our meeting and celebration of 2025 ministries following worship on January 18 and then we will head to Fellowship Hall for our annual chili cook-off!

Have you got the winning chili recipe?
Sign up to get cooking
and in the contest!

Are We Having Church? What happens if it snows Saturday evening or Sunday morning, do we have services? The short answer is: Yes. We will almost always have worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. If the weather is "bad," we ask you to please use your own discretion and whenever in doubt, remain safe! Our online presence will be an option as long as technology (power) permits. So, bundle up and head out to church.

2025 Contribution Statements. Beginning this year, you have the option to receive your 2025 church contribution statement by email. To let Donna know in the church office that you choose this option, please click on the link in your weekly email that you receive from the church to complete and submit the form. We ask that you let us know by Friday, January 16. Contribution statements will be emailed by the end of January. Thank you for considering this paperless option. Those who do not choose the email option will receive a hard copy by the end of January.

Giving Back in Community. Each year, Saint Paul's gives an end-of-year gift to five local organizations which we are fortunate to work with throughout the year. This year we gave donations to: The William Cameron Engine Company, Transitions of PA (Lewisburg location), Haven Ministry, Sunbury Homeless Shelter, Central PA Food Bank, our food distribution partner, and The Donald Heiter Community Center. These gifts are made possible through your generosity throughout the year and our annual Soup, Bake, Craft, and Barnyard sale. Each of these community members are so very grateful for your gifts and have reached out with words of thanks for all we have done to support their ministries in our community.

Something for Everyone...Sunday Mornings @ 9 a.m.

Every Sunday morning from 9 to 10 a.m., we offer learning, music, and fellowship for all ages. Grab your coffee and find your place:

Faith Connection Classes (9-10 a.m.): Explorers (Pre-K through 3rd Grade) - Scripture-based lessons and activities, Pathfinders (4th through 8th Grade) - Exploring the day's Scripture together; Travelers (9th Grade through Age 99) - Interactive Scripture study and theological conversation led by Dale & Nicole Cuer.

Choirs: Chancel Choir (9-10 a.m.) - Youth and adults, all voices welcome High School and on; Children's Music, Movement & Arts (9:40-10 a.m.) - For Elementary and Middle School ages.

Breakfast at 10 a.m., gather for a light continental breakfast, with coffee, and fellowship before worship begins at 10:30.

Whether you're 1 month to 100, there's a place for you on Sunday mornings – both our Nursery and Sensory Rooms are open and professionally staffed from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, every Sunday. So, come explore. Bring your questions. Find your people.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Ryan Arnold - 1/9

Tracy Baylor - 1/10

Brent Sechrist - 1/16

Val Ritter - 1/22

Happy Birthday to ...

Peggy Emory - 1/23

Noah Kozick - 1/24

Cory Mahon - 1/24

Earl Fisher - 1/28

Happy Anniversary to ...

Gloria & Byron Patterson - 1/12

Ed & Eileen Prowant - 1/21

Please let us know in the church office if we have missed your special day so that we may celebrate with you!

Upcoming Worship

January 11 ~ Baptism of Our Lord Sunday
"Making Waves"

Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-27

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: Mark Nielsen

Acolyte: Rhett Sample

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Breakfast Sponsor: Cyndy & Doug Kister

Flower Sponsor: Byron & Gloria Patterson

Offering Counter: A. Henry, D. Spear

January 18 ~ 2nd Sunday following Epiphany
"Come. See. Become."

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: Barb Wagner

Acolyte: Lucy Rosboschil

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Breakfast Sponsor: Kate & Art Schaeffer

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: J. Van Horn, D. Spear

January Usher/Greeter Team: Don & Peggy Emory, Jen & Chris Arnold, Donna & Gary Bennett, Amy Mahon, Sue Mahon, Drew Faust, Betsy Pullen

On the Journey Together



Sundays @ The Farm.

At 9 a.m. our coffee is brewing, and the nursery and sensory rooms are staffed and open. Our **Faith Connections** classes run from 9 to 10 a.m. and include Pre-K to 3rd Grade **Explorers**; 4th to 8th Grade **Pathfinders**; and 9th Grade to Age 99 **Travelers**. From 10 a.m. to 10:20, please enjoy breakfast, coffee, and fellowship then worship begins at 10:30. Following the "Time with Our Children," during worship, kiddos aged 3 to 2nd grade head back to the classroom for "**Children's Church**" and return to worship following Pastor Tim's sermon. On the first Sunday of each month, we celebrate **Holy Communion** together. And, monthly on the 2nd Sunday, we enjoy **Family Night** from 5 to 6:45. On the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together. January's all-church meal is our Annual Chili Cook-Off on January 18 when we will also celebrate all the ways in which you have shared your time and your talents and financial resources with this faith community in 2025. *This week's picture was taken during communion last Sunday ... always a beautiful and special time as we come to the table as a community of faith.*

Weekdays @ The Farm. Each Monday at 10 a.m. a group gathers for **Monday Morning Reflections**, a relaxing time with Pastor Tim to dig deeper into the scripture from our Sunday service. On Wednesdays is **Lunch with the Pastor** from 11:30 to 1. Pick up lunch at the Farmer's Market across the bridge from the farm or bring your own and join Pastor Tim. Then on Wednesday evenings, we offer **Wednesday Evening Interactive**, a seasonal book/bible study. (Beginning again on January 7). On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month is **Friends Who Breakfast**, a popular time to gather to catch up over conversation and breakfast at Street of Shops (9:45) on the 1st Wednesday and Silver Moon Restaurant (9:30) on the 3rd Wednesday. On the 4th Friday of each month, you can find a Saint Paul's group gathering at Union Cellars Winery for **Word, Wine, and Wisdom**, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Always a fun time as Pastor Tim tosses out a bible word to discuss with laughter and love.

Music @ The Farm. Our **Chancel Choir**, directed by Patty Wagner with Sharon Styer, pianist, rehearses each Sunday morning from 9 to 10. Our choir averages 25+ singers and there's always room for more! We also have a **Hand Bell Choir** which rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 to 6:15 and plays for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The **Children's Choir** practices during a portion of the Faith Connection classes with Miss Sharon and Miss Ashley and they bless our worship time once a month with their selections.

Serving @ The Farm. Mission and Outreach is an integral part of us "being the church" at Saint Paul's. On the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, we offer a **Fresh Express Food Distribution** in partnership with the Central PA Food Bank. Volunteers join us from 1 to 5 p.m. at Grace Place @ The Farm as we receive, sort, and distribute fresh food and groceries to our neighbors. All

Stewardship

Gift & Offerings ~

1/4/26

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) Giving thanks for the time, talents, and resources shared here.

Attendance: 157 (9 visitors)
LIVE Attendance: 1,173
Virtual Reach: 7,875
Christian Education: 39

Plate Giving:	2,710.00
Loose Plate:	300.00
Online Giving:	753.45
Operational Total:	3,763.45
Restricted Giving:	190.00
Total Giving:	3,953.45

are welcome as we have a wonderful time serving together. Next distributions are January 8 & 22. We also participate in **Community Harvest**, a monthly distribution on the 3rd Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at St. John's UCC and in conjunction with Bucknell's Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research. And, Saint Paul's has a long history of offering an **Emergency Food Pantry** that we lovingly refer to as our "Little Red Wagon" Our needs at this time are for: **Local Grocery Gift Cards to: Aldi, Giant and Weis. Gas Cards: Sheetz, Wawa, and Weis, any canned fruits and vegetables with pop tops, shelf stable milk, small bottles of vegetable oil, and canned proteins and box dinners, i.e. hamburger and tuna helper.** You may drop food items in the little red wagon on the porch outside the Sanctuary door and gift cards may be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday morning or to the church office throughout the week.

