



# Saint Paul's Possibilities

November 17, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

## Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

It was C.S. Lewis in his book "A Grief Observed" who wrote: "Grief is like a long valley, a winding valley where any bend may reveal a totally new landscape."

You may wonder in this season of intentional thankfulness why I would write or talk about grief. It seems there has been a lot of grief as of late, with family, friends, neighbors lost or suffering, and I have noticed many of our family here with heavy hearts, and rightly so. Not long ago, I took a death pretty hard. It is not unusual for me to shed tears when someone I know or one of you lose someone and you begin to cry, I too cry. But for some - unknown to me - reason, I was particularly hit hard by the loss of someone I didn't know very well as I was explaining that to a friend, who in the midst of my tears and confusion said, "Death reminds us of not only our own mortality, but also of those we love." She was correct.

The C.S. Lewis quote made me think about a long valley of grief and how different things, begin to trigger grief's sometimes otherwise dormant response in us. When my father died, for some reason I remember hearing the ambulance siren when it came to the house. I thought nothing much of it at the time, only that it was anticipatory that they were coming to pick him up and take him to the hospice home close by. However, that sound stuck with me and for quite a while when I heard an ambulance siren for some time after that, it triggered the memory and often a few tears. Sometimes it still does. It's like coming around the bend in a winding valley to see or discover something new that may trigger our grief's response - or even offer us comfort.

I have certainly had moments of comfort as well in that valley, I pray we all have. As I get older, I have to wonder is the valley of grief, not just a part of the valley of life? Is there really any separation of the two. When we go around the bend, does the landscape before us bring us reminders that can trigger many different emotions if we live in a space of awareness. As I was writing this, I thought of Psalm 23, often recited, I'm afraid rote at times, but I reread it again, multiple translations, and I wondered if David had written this in a time of grief or just from life experiences.

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me...*

*...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

After reading this familiar Psalm a few more times, the confusion as to why this topic in this season began to surface. We, as Christians live in the valley of life, but never alone. I thought about being thankful that we have one another to walk the journey with us, through the lows and the highs, around every bend and curve, no matter the speed with which we travel, the manner in which we live or grieve we are thankfully never alone.

So, this may be just the perfect season in which to think about grief, especially if it brings us to a place of thankfulness for the lives we have shared with those whom we have lost, for those who walk in the valley with us in the midst of loss, and for those who are with us in life. Especially, for a God who loves us so and promised we would NEVER be alone.

In this season of thankfulness, let us remember with grateful hearts those who walk in the valley of life alongside of us, those whose journey here has come to an end and those we may meet around the bend. For it is with a grateful heart we can live this life in the assurance that we are never alone.

Thanks be to God for you all and Happy Thanksgiving.

*Pastor Tim*

## Please Join Us in Praying For ...

Linda Beaver  
Sheryl Bernard  
Charlotte Beshore  
Robin Brown  
The Engle Family  
Chip Eschbach  
Gail Ernest  
Greyson Greenawalt  
Liam Haggler  
Joanna Johnson

Tony Johnson  
Katy Mahon  
Keith Muffley  
Paul Shaner  
Flo Warner  
Thomas Ward, Jr.  
Lisa Williams  
Wynn-Haven Family  
Mental Health Needs  
World Peace

Those with Life-Long Illnesses



# The Farm Report

## 'Tis the Season

We often have people ask if there are families that need help during the holidays, or how may we participate in helping others to make the holidays a bit brighter. This year we have four ways to offer holiday assistance for you to choose from.

Locally, we will be assisting the **Donald Heiter Community Center** to adopt a child(ren). Our contact for this event will once again be **Jen Arnold**. The need and instructions are the same as in years past. See the codes on the "Prayers and Love Page," choose a code, add a comment as to which code you have chosen, shop for the gift(s), adhere the code to the gift and drop it off here at the church in the coat room by December 3.

**Katy Mahon** is also collecting gifts again this year for adolescents at GMC Danville. This is a great mission project that Katy began a few years ago after spending time in the hospital herself and discovering kids around her age, teen and older teen, sort of being left out of the celebrations. Most celebrations were for the younger ones. So Katy began a gift-giving project where she collects the gifts, or money to purchase gifts, and then wraps and donates them to the Janet Weis Center for teens and adolescents that they too may receive gifts. Again, watch the prayers and love page.

**A Little Extra...** We have families that could use a bit of extra help during the Holidays. Many times, these families would never say a word, and no one would ever guess. However, we can give and donate anonymously. If you want to participate in something this way, you may drop your gift in the offering plate either by check or in an envelope or drop something off in the office marked "**A Little Extra.**" 100% of these funds will go to help families in need in our own faith community.

Finally, we can help both nationally and internationally through **Heifer International**. Giving an animal gift at the holidays is like giving someone a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs, and more. Every animal gift comes with a free honor card so your gift recipient knows their holiday gift is providing families access to medicine, school, food, and a sustainable livelihood. To help give through the Heifer Project, you may also place a check in the offering plate or an envelope with "**Heifer International**" in the memo line. You can learn more at [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

## Baby It's Cold Outside

So, would you help us keep it warm inside? As the weather gets colder and without a Narthex to enter before coming into our lovely Sanctuary, each time the doors are opened cold air comes rushing in. We would ask you to please be mindful and help us keep the warm in and the cold out. How, you may ask, can we do that? Well, we are glad you asked.

- Come in and stay in, settle in and be cozy warm.
- Use the Sanctuary doors only to enter and exit.
- Refrain from using the outside doors on the office side.

These three easy steps will help us in maintaining a warm welcoming place to worship.

## God Moments & Prayers

We are grateful to have so many people participate in our time of sharing where you have seen God in your lives as well as requesting prayers for loved ones and extended family. Please never stop sharing, as this is a beautiful sign of sacred safe space. Please keep in mind though that the details of illnesses are private, and we would ask you not to share specifics, only name and relationship to you if pertinent.

## Thanksgiving @ The Farm

November 19, we welcome New Members, hold our Fall Annual Meeting where we will call for a vote on our 2024 budget, our class of 2026 Consistory members, and share news of the church moving forward, then gather around the tables for our first Thanksgiving Luncheon @ The Farm. Turkey, stuffing, and potatoes will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share. *Hot sides in crock pots, please. :-)*

## Food Pantry & The Little Red Wagon

We are forever grateful to all who help keep our emergency food pantry stocked! The pantry is being used regularly, and we are fortunate enough to be able to help our neighbors thanks to everyone who contributes so generously. If you feel led to help your neighbors in this way, our current needs include shelf stable milk and gas or grocery gift cards. Please know your gifts mean a lot and enable this family to help serve families. Thank you, from the bottoms of the hearts of the recipients and our hearts as a family, for together we get to make a difference and share the love.

## **Advent 2023 is Here!**

Please plan to be home @ The Farm for this season! Whenever you can, be active and participate in any way you feel led or are able, because as you know, we aren't the same when you are not here.

We will celebrate *Hanging of the Greens* on Saturday, November 25, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Come help decorate the church for the season. It's always a joyous time and there's something for everyone to help with as we deck the halls!

*Advent Book Study ... "An Unlikely Advent"* begins on Wednesday, November 29 at 6:30 p.m. Join Pastor Tim as he invites us in to explore Rachel Billups new book, *"An Unlikely Advent"* during the four Wednesday evenings of Advent and for the following three Wednesdays after. The group will be exploring the "often overlooked characters of the Advent story." Books for the study will be available through the church office beginning Sunday, November 19. Everyone is invited to join as we gather in Fellowship Hall.

*Parents' Night Out* is Saturday, December 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. Hey parents ... Bring your children to the Farm for an evening of activities and fun while you take a little time to do some shopping without your littles.

On Monday, December 11, is the *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Infant, Child Loss Remembrance* service and dinner at Amazing Grace Church in Northumberland beginning at 6 p.m. This is hosted by The Smallest Gift Foundation which was founded by Jeannette Gill and Mandy Maneval. Our Saint Paul's Chancel Choir will be singing at the service.

*Christmas Poinsettias* will be placed in the Sanctuary in Honor, Memory or Celebration of Friends, Family, Neighbors and Loved Ones from December 17 to December 24. The cost is \$12 each. Please complete an order form or submit an order online on our church website homepage. Deadline for orders is Friday, December 15.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Nov 19 – Happy Birthday Chad Kister  
Nov 21 – Happy Birthday Zander Guffey  
Nov 21 – Happy Birthday Louise Litzy  
Nov 24 – Happy Anniversary Robin & Steve Brown  
Nov 25 – Happy Birthday John Parrish  
Nov 25 – Happy Birthday Donna Spear  
Nov 26 – Happy Birthday Polly Barrall  
Nov 27 – Happy Birthday Pat Bender  
Nov 27 – Happy Birthday Gary Bennett  
Nov 28 – Happy Birthday Molly Faust  
Nov 29 – Happy Birthday Steve Rowe

## **Services & Sermons**

It's going to be a beautiful Advent and Christmas season @ The Farm. We hope you will join us on the journey.



Advent I, November 26  
"Under the Influence" - a story of Hope

Advent II, December 3  
"Far and Wide" - a story of Love

Advent III, December 10  
"Wait, Look, Listen" - a story of Joy

Advent IV, December 17  
"The Defining Moment" - a story of Peace

Christmas Eve Morning - "Lessons on Carols"  
10:30 a.m. A celebration of the songs of Christmas

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight  
4:30 p.m. "In the Midst of the Mess"  
Children's Choir performing  
10:30 p.m. Special Music  
Chancel & Bell Choirs  
11:00 p.m. "The Knock at the Door"

First Sunday of Christmas, December 31  
"A New Day Dawning"

Epiphany, January 7  
"Jesus, Jesus, Jesus"



**Saint Paul's @ The Farm**  
**2023 Advent Concert Series**  
**Join us Sunday Evenings at 6 p.m.**

**November 26**  
**MusiCraft Celtic Christmas**

**December 3**  
**Community Choir Christmas Cantata**  
*(performances at 2 & 6 p.m.)*

**December 10**  
**Re/Strung String Quartet**

*Dessert Reception following each Concert*

**50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg**



## On the Weekly Journey

### Monday Morning Reflections, 11:30 a.m.

This is a weekly gathering with Pastor Tim to explore further the sermon and texts from Sunday's service. No experience necessary. All are welcome!

### Weekly Wednesday Pastor on the Porch

A time to just sit, relax, and discuss random topics with Pastor Tim on the porch (or if the weather is not cooperating, in Fellowship Hall). Grab your lunch at the market and join us on the porch 11:30 to 1 p.m.

### Bell Choir

Directed by Patty Wagner, rehearses 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays in the Sanctuary and performing twice a month for worship throughout the year. For more information see Patty.

### Wednesday Evening Interactive

Meeting at 6:30 p.m. weekly. A book study, currently exploring Bob Goff's *"Everybody, Always: Becoming Love in a World Full of Setbacks and Difficult People"* and how it relates to Jesus' Commandment in Matthew 22:37-40 to love our neighbor.

### Fresh Express Thursdays

Come help us provide groceries for our neighbors every second and fourth Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., come for an hour, two hours, or the entire time. All volunteers are welcome. **Nov. 21, Dec. 14 & 28**

### Sundays @ Saint Paul's

**9 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal** - directed by Russ Wynn, Jr., on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary and helps lead worship weekly. Always open to new members. To learn more, please see Russ.

**10 a.m. Children's Choir** - children through 7<sup>th</sup> grade, directed by Sharon Styer, rehearses at 10 a.m. each Sunday morning in the Chapel, and sings on the fourth Sunday of every month. Parents, drop your kids off for choir and enjoy coffee or breakfast while they practice for 10 to 15 minutes each Sunday morning.

### **10:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday's Family Meal** - We gather around the tables monthly for good eats and good times!

### **November 19 - "Thanksgiving" Meal**

### Fourth Monday Harvest Meal

Join us 1 to 5 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month as we help prepare and serve meals in conjunction with Bucknell's Office of Civic Engagement to our neighbors in the Milton area. Shelly Sholley is our lead contact for this meal. **November 27**

### Breakfast with Friends

Gather at the Silver Moon Restaurant on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. for a time to catch up and share stories in a small group setting. **December 13**

### Fourth Friday Wine, Word, and Wisdom

From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., come sit, relax, have a glass, and sink into the conversation about words that inspire our faith as we gather at Union Cellars, 4760 Furnace Road, Lewisburg. **November 24**

## Stewardship

### Gifts & Offerings November 12, 2023

*"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 on LIVE: 507 Virtual Reach: 4,959

Attendance In Person: 138 (15 Visitors)

Christian Ed: 63

Plate Giving	\$ 2,767.00
Loose Plate	\$ 173.00
Online Giving	\$ 488.06
Operational Total	\$ 3,428.06
General Restricted Giving	\$ 705.00
Total Giving	\$ 4,133.06

## Upcoming Worship

### November 19, 2023 - Christ the King Sunday

"Standing in Our Blind Spot"

Colossians 1:15-20; John 17:1-25

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Barb Wagner

Acolyte: Emerson Council

Flowers: Shelly Sholley and Sharon Foust

Breakfast Sponsor: Hogan-Palazzo

Offering Counter: S. Brown; D. Spear

### November 26, 2023 - First Sunday of Advent

"Under the Influence of Hope"

Isaiah 40:3-5; Mark 1:1-11

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Carol Oberlin

Acolyte: Faust Family

Flowers: Dennis Heverly

Breakfast Sponsor: Faust, Oberlin, Kazibwe Families

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

*November Usher Team: Chris and Jen Arnold, Drew Faust, Peggy and Don Emory, Kathy Showers, Carol Clewell*

