Saint Paul's Possibilities

November 27, 2026 News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

In 1847 in Roquemaure, France, poet Placide Cappeau penned the verses to what would become *Cantique de Noël*. Set to music soon after, and translated into English in 1855 by John Sullivan Dwight, that nearly 180-year-old carol has become beloved across generations as "O Holy Night."

Tucked inside its familiar melody is a line that speaks right to the heart of our human experience: *"A thrill of **hope**, the weary world rejoices."* That single phrase will serve as our guiding theme throughout this upcoming season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany here at Saint Paul's @ The Farm.

This is not hope as superficial seasonal cheer or fleeting holiday sparkle. This is chain-breaking hope. It is hope that looks squarely at our weary, hurting world—and into our own personal struggles—and dares to proclaim that suffering and injustice do not have the final word. For nearly two centuries, people facing grief, illness, uncertainty, and hardship have sung this carol and found strength in its promise. That same hope was written for their time, and it speaks just as powerfully into ours.

Upcoming Worship

November 29 ~ First Sunday of Advent
"It Gets Dark Out Here"
Isaiah 9:2; Mark 13:24-37
Worship Leader: Jen Arnold
Lector: Autumn Faust; Acolyte: Faust Family
Flower Sponsor: Pastor Tim, Chip, & Miss Myrtle
Breakfast Sponsor: Jeanie, Clayton, & Diane
Kitchen: Tina Longan
Offering Counters: J. Van Horn, D. Spear

December 6 ~ Second Sunday of Advent
"Do You Hear That? – Someone's Shouting for Peace"
Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8
Worship Leader: Niki Weber
Lector: Christine Parker; Acolyte: Parker Family
Flower Sponsor: Megan Lewis
Breakfast Sponsor: C. Wuerdeman, K. Ritter
Kitchen: Kathy Showers
Offering Counters: A. Mahon, D. Spear

December Usher/Greeters: Earl & Terri Fisher, Charley Jo Kister, Sue Mahon, Amy Mahon, Carol Oberlin, Steve Brown, Bob Gift, George Mull, Shelly Sholley

When Jesus was born, a Savior came into the world not for a narrow, private transaction to balance an account, but to show us what love and hope truly look like, feel like, and mean in real, everyday life. Hope was born in Christ that night, and hope longs to be born in each of us anew this season.

Advent is not a time of moral accounting. It is a season of holy ache and anticipation. It is the sacred practice of naming our world honestly—with all its grief, weariness, and longing—while refusing to believe that this is all life will ever be. When we long "O come, Emmanuel," it is our shared, heartfelt plea for the God of love to enter our history, lift up the valleys in our lives, fill the hungry with good things, and make all things new. When crowds greeted Jesus shouting "Hosanna!" (from the Hebrew hoshi'ah na, meaning "save us, please!"), they were not asking about a distant afterlife. They were crying out from the middle of real-life occupation, economic hardship, illness, and heavy burdens.

The earliest followers of Jesus proclaimed a living, whole salvation: the Messiah saved us, the Messiah is saving us, and the Messiah will save us. Over the coming weeks, our worship, music, prayers, and fellowship will move through all three dimensions. Together, we will remember what God has done, open our eyes to notice what God is doing among us right now, and practice hoping for all that God will do.

We will watch for Emmanuel not only in ancient stories, but in the living world around us—in classrooms and courtrooms, at kitchen tables and hospital bedsides, in shelters, sanctuaries, and neighborhoods longing for peace.

The miracle of Bethlehem did not end in a manger. A thrill of hope persists, and there is always a place reserved for you around our table. Whether you join us for Sunday morning worship, our Sunday evening concerts, serving others or with shared meals and fellowship throughout the season, we invite you to come find hope, help someone else find hope, and make room to truly rejoice together.

I so look forward to journeying through this Advent season together.

With love, anticipation, and deep gratitude
to be called your pastor on our shared journey,
Pastor Tim

The Farm Report



Order Your Poinsettia Now. As we prepare to welcome the light and joy of Christmas at The Farm, we invite you to help adorn our sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias. These plants become part of our Christmas worship and offer a meaningful way to remember, honor, or celebrate someone special—a loved one, friend, or member of our community. This year, large poinsettias are available in red or white for $12 each. You may choose your color and the number of plants you would like to order. The poinsettias will arrive and be displayed in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20, and will be available to take home following the late service on Christmas Eve. To participate, please complete an order form found in your bulletin or at the Welcome Desk. You may also place your order online with this link https://tinyurl.com/2026farmpoinsettias or from the button on our church website homepage. Thank you for helping make our worship space beautiful while sharing in this special ministry of remembrance, celebration, and Christmas joy.



From a Church to a Barn to a Church in a Barn, it's Home! Sometimes God works through unexpected phone calls, quiet acts of generosity, and a faith community willing to show up with a trailer. A few months ago, Jen Van Horn received a call from Scott Baylor. Scott's neighbor had a stained-glass window that had been stored in his barn for roughly ten years. The window had originally been saved from a church in Lancaster that was being torn down. After a decade of holding onto it and wondering what to do with it, the neighbor realized he had no place for it and asked Scott if he knew of anyone who might give it a worthy home. Scott immediately thought of Saint Paul's and called Jenn. Jenn came to me—already knowing what my answer would be! The only catch was that we had to arrange to pick it up ourselves. Jen and Bob quickly put together a plan, hitched up a trailer, and made the trip. Thanks to the neighbor's generosity, the window was gifted to Saint Paul's completely free of charge.

When it first arrived, we had no idea what biblical scene was depicted within the glass. But as providence—or the Holy Spirit—would have it, the window portrays the Nativity: the birth of Jesus, the very heart of the Christmas story and my favorite time of year. Jen soon asked if we might display the stained glass right here in the sanctuary until our barn project is built out, after which it may move to the barn behind the chancel. I said yes right away, though I will admit to a little skepticism early on. How would we mount it safely? How could we light an interior stained-glass window without natural sunlight and still do justice to its colors and artistry? Thankfully, our church family is blessed with people gifted in engineering, craftsmanship, and lighting. In just two days, a crew of six volunteers stepped in and solved every challenge. What you see gracing our chancel today is the fruit of their creativity and hard work.

We have since learned that the window was originally created around 1962 by Payne Studios of Paterson, New Jersey. While we are still discovering more about its history, we are overflowing with gratitude that a sacred piece of art—originally fashioned for a house of worship—has found its way back home into a church where it can inspire and bless people once again. We invite you to take some time to admire the window, notice its beautiful details, and let its story speak to you. To help protect this precious piece of art, we ask that you enjoy it with your eyes and refrain from touching it. A heartfelt thank-you to Jen, Bob, Doug, Chip, Steve, and everyone who lent their hands and hearts to this project along the way. What a beautiful, grace-filled gift to debut together on this first Sunday of Advent as we prepare our hearts to welcome the Light of the World, Emmanuel, God with us. *Hope for Advent, Pastor Tim*

An Interactive Worship Experience for our Children. Last Sunday, Miss Colleen introduced a new and interactive way for our youth to participate in worship. Children in grades 3 and up can pick up a clipboard and a packet of stickers along with the worship bulletin at the Welcome Desk and place a sticker next to each part of the service in the bulletin as we move through worship. What a creative and wonderful way for our youth to learn all the parts of our worship experience in a hands-on interactive way!

Celebrations

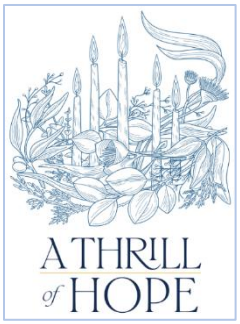
Happy Birthday to ...

Pat Bender - 11/27
Gary Bennett - 11/27
Molly Faust - 11/28
Steve Rowe - 11/29
Hillary Cree - 12/2
Doug Richard - 12/2
Cooper Moyer - 12/5
Dianne Covert - 12/6



Happy Anniversary to ...

Bill & Sherri Gill - 11/29



Journey Through Advent Together. Looking for a meaningful way to move through the Advent season? This year's devotional, A Thrill of Hope, is available in two formats:

- Printed copies are available at the Sanctuary Welcome Desk.
- An electronic version can be sent to you by email.

The readings begin today, November 29, and continue through Advent and Christmas, leading us all the way to Epiphany. To receive the electronic devotional, call the church office or email admin@spuccfarm.org. You may also pick up a printed copy and begin the journey with us. However you choose to participate, A Thrill of Hope offers a beautiful way for us to prepare our hearts, reflect on the season, and journey together toward the light of Christ.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors T-Shirts and Sweatshirts. As part of our Advent Journey this year, Miss Colleen has come up with a great way to support our neighbors who may need assistance with staying warm this winter. Called "*Saint Paul's @ The Farm Hope for Heat*," use the QR code or go to our storefront at https://www.bonfire.com/store/spuccfarm/ to order a t-shirt or sweatshirt that says … A Thrill of Hope a weary world rejoices. With each purchase, a portion of the money will return to Saint Paul's mission funds as we live in love and light as neighbors helping neighbors.



Grateful Hearts, Faithful Stewardship. As we approach the end of the year, we want to pause and say a heartfelt *Thank you*! Everything we do together at Saint Paul's @ The Farm—every meal shared, prayer lifted, and neighbor welcomed—is made possible through your faithful presence and generous spirits. Your tithes and offerings provide the essential foundation that sustains our daily ministry—supporting staff, building rent, utilities, insurance, property upkeep, and keeping our sanctuary a warm, welcoming space with open doors for all. Faithful stewardship also looks outward: our combined gifts also helps the church maintain a steadfast commitment that at least 10% (a full tithe) of what is received goes directly back into mission, outreach, and caring for our neighbors and over the past 10 years we have exceeded that goal by nearly double that commitment every year for the past 10 years now.

***A Note Regarding 2026 Charitable Tax Deductions*:** For your general awareness, current tax provisions for the 2026 tax year allow a charitable write-off of up to $1,000 for individuals and $2,000 for married couples filing jointly. We share this simply as helpful information for your household. Families approach giving and taxes from many thoughtful perspectives and personal convictions, and we honor and respect whatever decision is right for you. (*Please note: This information is provided for general awareness only and does not constitute tax, legal, or financial advice. We encourage you to consult a qualified tax professional regarding your specific situation.*)

Helpful Year-End Details & Deadlines. To assist our office staff and counting teams with accurate recordkeeping:

- Cash in Envelopes: Please clearly print your full name on the envelope to ensure your contribution is credited to your annual statement.
- Weekly Giving Envelopes: If you would like a boxed set prepared for the coming year, please contact the church office.
- 2026 Giving Deadline: To be credited to 2026, gifts must be postmarked, submitted online, or dropped off at the office prior to **midnight on December 31, 2026**.
- Annual Statements: Individual 2026 giving statements will be sent out by **January 31, 2027**.

If you have questions about your giving, need assistance with online options, or would like to review your giving records, please feel free to reach out to Donna or Susan in the church office. Thank you for your open hearts and the generous ways you share your time, talent, and treasure with this community. Together, we truly get to be the church!

2027 Altar Flowers Sponsors. To reserve a Sunday to place flowers on the altar in memory, honor, or celebration of a loved one, call the church office or reserve a date online from our website homepage. The cost is $50. Thank you for helping to make our sanctuary so beautiful each week for our worship time. Flowers are beautifully arranged and provided by our own Susie Gearhart at The Blooming Rooster.

Sweet Sentiments. Please help us give a little sweet sentiment to our Fresh Express guests during the holidays this year. At our Tuesday, December 22, food distribution, we will give each family a holiday card and a little baggie of Hershey Kisses. If you would like to help in this way, please drop off Hershey kisses to the church by Sunday, December 13, so that we can assemble this special treat for our last distribution in 2026 on December 22.

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. From 10 to 10:25, please enjoy breakfast, coffee, and fellowship then worship begins at 10:30. On the first Sunday of each month, we celebrate ***Holy Communion*** together. And, monthly on the 2nd Sunday, we enjoy ***Family Night*** beginning at 5 p.m. On the ***3rd Sunday of each month***, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together.

Christian Formation @ The Farm. Faith Connections classes for all ages run from 9 to 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings, with Miss Colleen and Miss Krysta leading our children and Nicole and Dale Cuer offering a Prayer Workshop for adults. Additionally, 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.



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 1:00. Pick up lunch at The British Baking Company right here at Brookpark Farm or from the Farmer's Market across the bridge or bring your own and join Pastor Tim. Then on Wednesday evenings, we offer ***Wednesday Evening Interactive***, a seasonal book/bible study. 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 and Movement @ 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 5:30 to 6:30 and plays for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. ***The children practice*** from 9:45 to 10:05 each Sunday and bless our worship time twice a month with their selections of music and movement. This group is led by Sharon Styer and Ashley Rosboschil.

Serving @ The Farm. Mission and Outreach is an integral part of us "being the church" at Saint Paul's. On the 2nd & 4thThursdays 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 are welcome as we have a wonderful time serving together. The next distributions are December 10 & 22. We also participate in ***Community Harvest***, a monthly meal program in conjunction with Bucknell's Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research. We cook on the 4th Monday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at St. John's UCC and assist on select months with monthly distribution there on the 3rd Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. See Terri Kremer with questions. Saint Paul's also has a "Little Red Wagon" which you will find on the porch at the entrance to our sanctuary. This is where you can drop off shelf-stable food items to help keep our emergency food pantry stocked. As well, if you wish to donate grocery or gas gift cards to help our neighbors in need, you may drop those in the offering plate during worship. Our current needs include: *Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce, Chef Boyardee cups, instant potatoes (boxes), Canned, boxed, or cup soups, Peanut Butter, Shelf-stable or powdered milk, Cereal, Knorr's Noodle and Sauce Mix, Knorr's Rice Side Dishes, Ramen Noodles.*

Stewardship

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

Gifts & Offerings ~ 11/22/26
Attendance: 144 (4 Visitors)
LIVE Attendance: 975
Virtual Reach: 4,206
Christian Education: 37

Plate Giving:	2,072.00
Loose Plate:	182.00
Online Giving:	1,352.77
Operational Total:	3,606.77
Restricted Giving:	475.00
Total Giving:	4,081.77

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Wes Carl
Baby Elliott
Don Emory
Patti Faux
Rebecca Foote
Sharon Foust
Sherri Gill
Ellie Guerrero
Ginny Hughes
Darryl Kline
Lyndsey Zimmerman
Unspoken Requests

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Pastor's Email: PastorTim@spuccfarm.org
Church Website: https://www.spuccfarm.org