



Saint Paul's Possibilities

December 12, 2025

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

It is unbelievable to be entering the third week of Advent. Once again, I want to share with you from two members of our faith family and their Christmas stories. This week we hear from two persons who have written about bearing each other's burdens—in meaningful ways to serve creating Christmas for others.

The magic of Christmas isn't found in perfectly wrapped packages or meticulously decorated trees, but in the moments we choose to see beyond ourselves. This week, Carol and Joanie share stories that remind us: the most profound Christmas memories often come not from what we receive, but from what we give to others who are hurting, lonely, or far from home.

First, we hear from Carol Oberlin as she shares her Christmas Story.

When I was a child, my parents had a special tradition. My dad would buy a Christmas tree and place it outside of our house on Christmas Eve. We would go to bed on Christmas Eve to an ordinary living room and wake up to not only a fully decorated tree but a winter wonderland including a train with villages all around. For years I would try to stay up to find out who was responsible for this magic display. It brought so much joy and magic to this special time of year. As I became older it no longer seemed important to find out who was responsible for such a fete but rather to enjoy and just be in this very special moment. As the years passed, I began to realize the joy I felt was the spirit of Christmas itself. Someone selflessly created such a memory for my sisters and me. It instilled in me the desire to spread this joy and Christmas magic to others. It began one year when a dear friend of mine had lost her father to cancer and simultaneously found out her husband no longer wanted to be married. With a small child at home and her lack of desire to celebrate the holidays I put together a basket of some of their favorite things—snacks, movie tickets, grocery store gift cards, gas cards, well you get the picture. I had my husband drive while I hopped out of the car, placed the basket on her front doorstep and rang the doorbell and hid in the bushes. Weeks later hearing her tell of this special surprise that helped her get through the holidays made my heart smile. Next was a coworker whose husband had a debilitating disease so he could no longer work, and she was caretaker for him and their three children. There was no way they could afford Christmas presents or Christmas dinner. Together with other coworkers we bought presents and food so that their kids could have a Christmas that otherwise would not have been possible. With each event my Christmas spirit grew ever stronger. It wasn't the gifts themselves but rather the gifts of love, compassion, empathy and understanding. I love the Christmas season for so many reasons but especially for the opportunity to spread love and joy in so many ways. It doesn't have to be some grand gesture, it could be a simple "hello" to a widow, holding the door for someone, listening to someone share a memory from their past or a hug to someone who is having a bad day. In this world of uncertainty, I hope you all keep the spirit of Christmas in your hearts all year long!

Next, I want to go directly into Joanie Weaver's Christmas Story that you may continue to experience a bit of both their servant hearts. Joanie has included a scripture reference for us to consider along with her story.

In August of 1978 I was home on leave after just graduating from Navy Radioman "A" School in San Diego, CA. I had orders to arrive at my first duty station which was Okinawa Japan within the coming weeks. My family threw me a surprise Christmas party complete with a tree and presents. I thought that this would be my most memorable Christmas ever since it was going to be my first Christmas away from home. It was and still is memorable until that December.

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Diane Buck
Mark Covert
The Engle Family
Florence Enterline
Traci Eschbach
Doug Kister
Tom & Priscilla Lanks
Ruth Myers
Ed & Eileen Prowant
Michele Pryor
Craig Richie
Scott Tyson
Dave & Barb Wagner
Tommy Ward
Russ & Donna Wynn
Unspoken Requests

December had arrived on Kadena AFB, and we were all aware Christmas was right around the corner. Some of the quads in the barracks were decorating and mine was no different. I felt a little homesick but was trying to get into the spirit of it all. I had made friends in my quad and one woman in particular Terri. She was from Allentown, PA. As Christmas got closer, I started noticing that she was really homesick. In the meantime, I had gotten several care packages from home. Homemade sweet treats, Christmas cards and yes Middleswarth potato chips. My friend was getting none of these.

I got to thinking about home and how I missed my family, friends and my church. I had an idea, but it would take more than just me to pull this off. So, I talked to some of the women in the quad and some people in her squadron. They were all onboard with a surprise Christmas party. We made sure that she worked a bit late on Christmas Eve (which I'm sure didn't help her mood) so we could get things pulled together. The chow hall gave us leftover food and people brought drinks. Her surprise and tears were all worth the effort in bringing joy to someone in need of some good old-fashioned cheer so far from home.

Later that evening I gave her a gift box. As she opened it, she was telling me that I had already done enough. Terri was very happy with the gift. I had made up a care package from home using some of my food and yes the Middleswarth chips were a bit of PA on Okinawa.

Galatians 6:2 "Share each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Carol's parents showed her that Christmas magic isn't about perfection, it's about creating unexpected moments of wonder for those you love. Years later, she learned to pass that gift on: a basket on a doorstep for a grieving friend, presents for children who wouldn't otherwise have Christmas morning. Joanie knew what it felt like to receive care packages from home while serving far away, so when her friend Terri was homesick, Joanie shared what she had—even her precious Middleswarth chips from Pennsylvania.

Both women discovered that the best Christmas memories become the ones where we create Christmas for someone else. As Joanie reminds us with Galatians 6:2: "Share each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ." This is what Advent calls us to—not just remembering Christ's coming but embodying God's love in the world around us.

Blessings of the Season, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Christmas Eve @ The Farm. Christmas is always an awe-filled experience, and it seems even more so here @ The Farm on Christmas Eve. We extend a special invitation to you and ask you to invite others to join you this year for Christmas Eve @ The Farm. Our first service takes place at 4:30 p.m. featuring our Children's Choir. The second service begins with special music including Hand Bells, Brass, Chancel Choir, and soloists beginning at 10:30 p.m. Both services close with Candlelight and Communion. We really hope to see you for these very special services at this very special time of the year. Join us as we arrive home at the manger on this blessed night.



Christmas Poinsettias. The deadline to order is December 17, for red or white poinsettias in honor, memory, or celebration of loved ones. Order online from the homepage of our website: spuccfarm.org, fill out a green order form found at our sanctuary welcome desk, or call the church office. The cost is \$12, and the flowers will be placed in the sanctuary for services on December 21 and 24. You may take your flowers with you immediately following the late worship on December 24, or you may leave them to adorn the church through January 4, 2026.

*The 2026 Breakfast Sponsor sheet is on the podium just inside the Fellowship Hall Doors
Is your family (families) willing to help sponsor breakfast in the coming weeks? Sign up today.*

Looking Ahead to 2026! The full 2026 calendar of special events is coming soon including our January Cottage Meetings. For now, here are some highlights to get on your calendar:



January:

- Wednesday, January 7, 6:30 p.m. – New 6-week interactive study begins in the Parlor.
- Thursday, January 8 and 22 – Help us help our neighbors, join us for Fresh Express any time from 1 to 5.
- Sunday, January 18 – 2025 Ministry Celebration & Annual All-Church Chili Cook-off.
- Friday, January 23 – Word, Wine & Wisdom at Union Cellars.

February:

- Thursday, February 12 & 26 – Fresh Express, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Help us help our neighbors, all are welcome.
- Sunday, February 15 – Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show (start preparing your act now! – theme revealed soon!)
- Wednesday, February 18 – Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
- Friday, February 27 – Word, Wine & Wisdom at Union Cellars.

Watch for the full lineup of events and activities soon. This is going to be a great season of growth, fellowship, and fun here @TheFarm

Altar Flowers Sponsors for 2026. 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, Lewisburg.



Saint Paul's @ The Farm
2025 Advent Concert Series
Join us Sundays in Advent
50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg

December 14 ~ 6 p.m.
The Shamokin H.S.
Brass Ensemble

*A dessert reception follows the concert
in our Fellowship Hall.*

Community Blue Christmas Service

7 p.m.
Thursday, December 18, 2025
@ The Farm
50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg

This is a community-wide event sponsored by
Driesbach and Saint Paul's @ The Farm UCCs.
All are welcome.

Upcoming Worship

December 14 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy
"Singing in the Dark"
Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:39-56
Worship Leader: Niki Weber
Lector: Ashley Rosboschil
Acolyte: The Dressler Family
Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers
Breakfast Sponsor: The Emory & Arnold Families
Flower Sponsor: Pat Bender & Daughters
Offering Counter: S. Brown, D. Spear

December 21 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent - Love
"A Real Vagabond?"
Micah 5:2-5a; John 1:1-14
Worship Leader: Niki Weber
Lector: Jeanie Council
Acolyte: The Council/Eschbach Families
Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan
Breakfast Sponsor: The Armstrong Family
Flower Sponsor: Church Poinsettias
Offering Counter: E. Fisher, D. Spear

December Usher/Greeters: Earl & Terri Fisher,
Sue Mahon, Amy Mahon, Barb Wagner, Bob Gift,
George Mull, Shelly Sholley

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. **Confirmation Class** meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings at 5 p.m. And, on the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together. This month's catered Christmas Dinner is Sunday, December 21 at 5 p.m. (Pictured above is the Rosboschil Family—Justin, Ashley, Ivy, Lucy, and Finn reading the Advent Candle liturgy last Sunday.)

Weekdays @ The Farm. Each Monday at 11:30 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. (Advent Intentions is December 3, 10, & 17 at 7 p.m.). 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 (next on Tuesday, December 23). 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. 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.

Year-End Financial Note.

If you are prayerfully considering a year-end contribution to Saint Paul's operational fund, please ensure that your gift is in the church office or postmarked by December 31 in order for it to be tax deductible for 2025. Your giving this year along with your faithful partnership in ministry truly impacts our community and world around us. Thank you.

Stewardship

Gift & Offerings ~ 12/7/2025

"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: 140 (7 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 1,161

Virtual Reach: 11,676

Christian Education: 42

Plate Giving: 10,852.00

Loose Plate: 150.00

Online Giving: 1,748.29

Operational Total: 12,750.29

Restricted Giving: 386.50

Total Giving: 13,136.79

