

Saint Paul's United Church of Christ

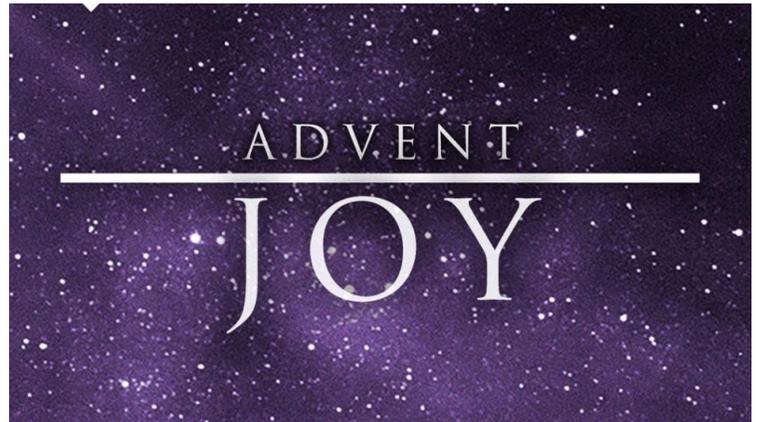
Welcomes you on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. December 18, 2022

Welcoming Saints and Sinners since 1900

Welcome to Saint Paul's! Here we believe this is God's house, and you are welcome. This is home to all who enter. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as we understand God's kingdom, welcoming saints and sinners alike since 1900. We don't all look or act alike; dress alike; and God knows we don't all think alike. We don't all read the Bible the same way. We bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. Yet, every time we gather, we gather, fellowship, and worship as one big family. In this place, we do Sunday mornings in some pretty traditional ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We sing many of the same hymns our grandparents sang and some that may be more modern as well. In our liturgy, our prayers, and our preaching, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world we live in. I hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this day—a word of comfort, a spur to action, and a call to a deeper relationship with God.

If you are new here, before you leave today, please introduce yourself to the pastor, and if you would, fill out a welcome card. Check out our Facebook page or website to learn more about us, and get involved in whatever way you choose. Jump right in. You may never know; you may have just found your church home. As we like to say to everyone who comes through the door, "Welcome Home."



A special note to parents: Come, sit in the front few pews, there's not much interesting about the backs of heads and for our littlest ones, they like to see too. Should you choose, we have a nursery open, and children's church available for all ages through Grade 2, following our "time with the children" portion of the service. We find children to be truly the teachers and leaders of our faith community and welcome them all with open arms.

Finally, if you are visiting and need anything at all, please don't hesitate to ask, a neighbor, an usher, the pastor, and know we are glad you are here!

Peace, Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Please Join Us for Christmas Services

Saturday, December 24

"Candlelight and Communion" Services ~ Our first service begins at 4:30 p.m. and features the Children's Choir. Our second service begins with a half hour of special music at 10:30 p.m. featuring both our Chancel and Bell Choirs.

Sunday, December 25

"Christmas Morning Birthday Party Service" with our Chancel Choir to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Come in your favorite Christmas sweater or pajamas and join us for a continental breakfast.

Gathering of the Community

Gathering Music

Michael Haven

Choral Introit

"The Advent of Our God" / C. Coffin

*"The Advent of our God with eager hearts we greet;
We must praise Him in this hour with hymns and anthems sweet."*

Welcome and News from the Pews

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo & Niki Weber

Time of Centering

Russ Wynn, Jr.

*Call to Worship &

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Pastor Tim, Niki Weber, & The Kazibwe Family

Lector: Scriptures both old and new tell us the story of events leading up to the birth of Christ. First from the Prophet Isaiah we hear: "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14 NRSV)

Pastor Tim: *"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.'" When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus."* (Matthew 1:23-25 NRSV)

Lector: God longs for us to know God's presence, even when we aren't sure ourselves. God wants us to experience God's presence, even when we think we can handle life on our own. God sends us signs of God's presence with us; all we are called to do is keep our eyes and heart open, being ready to receive.

Family (sung): *"O holy child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today."*

Lector: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, of all inclusive love, and today, deep everlasting joy. We light them all that no matter our circumstances, we know we are not alone.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Hymn of Praise, no. 145

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Proclaiming the Word

God Moments

Concerns of the Family

A Time of Reflection

"Away in a Manger" / J. T. McFarland

"Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there."

Silent Reflection

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison): ****Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***May use name/words most familiar to your understanding of God*

Chancel Choir Anthem

"The World Has Joy Medley" / arr. R. Mauldin

Time with Our Children

Colleen Franciscus

Lectionary

Richard Armstrong

Hebrew Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the word of God for all God's People.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Response

"Gloria Patri" / trad.

*"Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen."*

Sermon

"Joy on Mahoning"
Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Responding to the Word

A Time of Reflection

"Emmanuel" / B. McGee

*"Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel."*

Offering

Offertory Music

Michael Haven

Presentation of Our Gifts

An additional option is text **GIFT & Amount to 570.355.5355**

*Offertory Response

"What Can I Give Him?" / C. Rossetti

*"What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wiseman, I would do my part; Yet what can I give Him? Give Him my heart."*

*Offertory Prayer

*Closing Hymn, no. 144

"How Great Our Joy!"

*Benediction

*Benedictory Response

"Angels We Have Heard on High" / Traditional

"Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo."

*Postlude

Russ Wynn, Jr.

**Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.*

*Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God
in Honor of Shelly Sholley on her birthday today by Sharon Foust
and in Memory of Shirley Parrish's Birthday by John Parrish*

Saint Paul's Leadership Team

Pastor	Timothy Hogan-Palazzo
Church Administrative Assistant	Donna Spear
Minister of Music / Organist	Russell Wynn, Jr.
Assistant Minister of Music / Asst. Organist	Sharon Styer
Assistant Accompanists	Michael Haven / Shelley Peterson
Child Care Attendant / Children's Church	Adriana Richard / Colleen Franciscus
Children & Youth Leader	Colleen Franciscus
Sexton	Steve Brown
Groundskeepers	Robert Greenly / Ethan Hamilton
Tech Team	Chip Palazzo, Keegan Gill, Heath Hansum
Financial Secretary	Dianne Covert
Treasurer	Doug Hagerman

Consistory

Brad Gill –President/Trustee	Jen Arnold ('24) – Deacon
Lisa Bernard ('24) – Vice President/Trustee	Drew Faust ('23) – Trustee
Colleen Franciscus ('23) – Secretary/Deacon	Amy Mahon ('25) – Deacon
Dave Muffley ('25) – Trustee	Rhonda Newton ('24) – Deacon
Sue Overdorf ('23) – Deacon	Amy Rearick ('24) – Deacon
Kathy Rowe ('25) – Deacon	Dane Santos ('25) - Deacon

Contact and Connect

Church Address:	1125 Mahoning Street, Milton, PA 17847
Church Office Contact:	570-568-1433 / admin@spuccwm.org
Pastoral Emergencies:	570-975-9536 (Pastor Tim's cell)
Pastor's Email:	PastorTim@spuccwm.org
Church Online Directory:	https://engage.suran.com/spuccwm
Church Online Events Calendar:	https://www.spuccwm.org/calendar

Not able to be here in person on Sunday morning? Join us LIVE on Facebook and YouTube.

Connect with us online at: <http://www.spuccwm.org> and follow us on Facebook.

CCLI 11376236 / CSPL126882