

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

On New Year's Eve I woke to read through my devotional emails and came across one from Jody at Bible Gateway, a site I often use to compare Bible translations. As I read, I found myself exhaling—reminded once again of the love, friendship, and grace God has for us all.

Jody wrote: "As we approach a new year, I've been spending a little time in Genesis 1. I regularly return to familiar passages when I need a reminder of who God is—and who we are.

In "The Bible, Simplified" by Zach Windahl, one line stood out. Windahl explains that when God created Adam, "Adam's name simply means 'humanity,'" and then he notes that "this story isn't just about the first man. It's about all of us."

Windahl goes on to write:

"God created Adam in his own image: to be creative like God, to reason like God, and to partner in continuing the creation process for eternity. The Bible describes God as walking and talking with Adam. They were friends."

As I sat with those words, I found myself slowing down. It reminded me that God's intention from the very beginning was relationship—closeness, friendship, and purpose. And as we step into a new year, it's comforting to remember that this story includes us too. We are part of what God is doing. We are invited into His presence, one small step at a time."

What a gift to be reminded of, especially as one year closes and another begins. God created us from the beginning for relationship—to be companions with God and with one another on life's journey.

Not just the ones who think they have it all figured out. Not just the perfect ones. All of us.

Jody continued:

"Sometimes we think we need a perfect plan before we begin reading the Bible. But starting simply—even with a single verse or a familiar chapter—can be enough to remind us of who we are: people created in God's image, invited to walk with God again."

This is who we are called to be: co-creators with God of justice and joy. Companions on the journey, helping one another discover the God-given gift of loving and living life in community.

Not just existing. Living.

That's what excites me as we enter 2026—the opportunity to walk this journey together. To gather around tables and around Scripture. To listen and learn and grow alongside one another. To be the humanity God created in God's own image: friends walking the journey of love, grace, and compassion together.

This year, we'll have new opportunities to gather—some around Scripture study, some around shared meals, some around questions and conversation. You'll find opportunities and details in this week's Possibilities, but here's what matters most: we're here for one another. However you choose to show up, wherever you are on the journey, there's room for you.

Because being on this journey together—that's the gift. That's what God created us for from the very beginning.

Please Pray for

Laurie & Kris Anderson
Linda Beaver
Family of Dick Bettleyon
Mark Covert
Engle Family
Traci Eschbach
Kazakavage Family
Leona Kemmerer
Doug Kister
Dottie Leeser
Ruth Myers
Ed & Eileen Prowant
Dave & Barb Wagner
Tommy Ward
Russ & Donna Wynn
Unspoken Requests

Happy New Year with Love and Blessings, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

PLANNING AHEAD WITH YOUR FARM FAM

A Beautiful Year. Beginning Wednesday, January 7, we are starting a new year-long study using Diana Butler Bass's "A Beautiful Year: Meditations on Faith, Wisdom, and Perseverance." Each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m., we'll gather in the Gathering Place to explore Scripture through the seasons of the church year. We'll read together, reflect together, and discover how ancient wisdom speaks into our lives today. You're invited to join the journey for the full year—or come when you can. Life happens, schedules change, and that's okay. Jump in, step away when you need to, come back when you're able. The readings build on one another, but each gathering stands on its own. What matters most is that we do this together. Yes, you could read the book alone at home. But there's something powerful about wrestling with Scripture in community—hearing different perspectives, asking questions out loud, and discovering you're not alone in your doubts or your wonder. Books are available for a suggested donation of \$25. Join us when you can.

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.



All Aboard for a Talented Adventure! The cost is "Free" but the food, fun, fellowship and talent, they are all priceless. Save the date: Sunday, February 15, at 5:30 p.m. for our 10th Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show! This is the last Sunday prior to the beginning of Lent – Ash Wednesday, February 18. We'll

feast on spaghetti, salad, bread, and desserts in Fellowship Hall, then move to the Sanctuary for an evening of talent ranging from amazing to hilariously ambitious. Singers, dancers, musicians, comedians, magicians, baton twirlers, tuba players, poets—if you've got an act, we want to see it! Dust off those dancing shoes, warm up those pipes, polish that magic trick, or practice your stand-up routine. All ages and all talents welcome. Want to perform? See Gloria Lehman and sign-up in Fellowship Hall. Not a performer? We need dessert bakers, kitchen helpers, and enthusiastic audience members (the easiest job!). As always, the cost is free because the talent is priceless! Just bring your appetite and your sense of humor. Join us for food, fun, and laughter. It's going to be a great night!

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Robin Brown - 1/3

Nicole Cuer - 1/3

Erica Arnold - 1/4

Amelia Henry - 1/4

Brad Gill - 1/6

Steve Anderson - 1/8

Ken Bennett - 1/8

Ryan Arnold - 1/9

Tracy Baylor - 1/10

Happy Anniversary to ...



Donna & Gary Bennett - 1/3

Gloria & Byron Patterson - 1/12

Upcoming Worship

January 4 ~ Epiphany Sunday

"The Little Drummer Boy Syndrome"

II Corinthians 8:1-11; Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: Kate Schaeffer

Acolyte: Rhett Sample

Communion Assistants: Jeanie Counsil,

Ethan Cree, Kathy Showers, Holly Barbella

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Breakfast Sponsor: Kathy Showers

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: P. Emory, D. Spear

January 11 ~ Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

"Making Waves Together"

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

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: Mark Nielsen

Acolyte: Emma Hott

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Breakfast Sponsor: Cyndy & Doug Kister

Flower Sponsor: Byron & Gloria Patterson

Offering Counter: A. Henry, D. Spear

January Usher/Greeter Team: Don & Peggy

Emory, Jen & Chris Arnold, Donna & Gary

Bennett, Amy Mahon, Sue Mahon, Drew

Faust, Betsy Pullen

DIG Furniture Bank Needs Our Help—Monday, January 5! Our neighbors at DIG Furniture Bank have an exciting opportunity—and they need hands (and trucks!) to make it happen. A hotel in Lewisburg is being renovated and has generously offered DIG a large donation of furniture: armchairs, end tables, desks, lamps, mini fridges, and more. All of it will go to families in our community who need it. The catch? It all needs to be picked up by Monday, January 5, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Can you help? DIG needs volunteers to load and unload furniture, and anyone with a pickup truck or trailer would be a huge help. The more hands and trucks available, the more furniture they can rescue and pass on to families in need. If you're available Monday, please contact Gabby Herman at (570) 658-9880 to let her know you're coming. This is a quick, meaningful way to serve our community. Let's help DIG help our neighbors!

Dates to Start the New Year! The full listing of 2026 Saint Paul's Special Events is posted on our website, but for now, mark your calendars for these events.

- Wednesday, Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m. – New interactive bible/book study begins in the Gathering Place.
- Thursday, Jan. 8 and 22 – Help us help our neighbors, join us for Fresh Express any time from 1 to 5.
- Sunday, Jan. 11, 5 p.m. – Family Night (kids and adults) Potluck dinner and hot cocoa bar, movie, and winter crafts!
- Sunday, Jan. 18 – 2025 Ministry Celebration & Annual All-Church Chili Cook-off following worship
- Friday, Jan. 23 – Word, Wine & Wisdom at Union Cellars 4:30
- Thursday, Feb. 12 & 26 – Fresh Express, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Help us help our neighbors, all are welcome.
- Sunday, Feb. 8 – Family Night (for kids and adults) it's our annual Superbowl Party!
- Sunday, Feb. 15 – Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Talent Show (start preparing your act now for our "All Aboard for a Talented Adventure.")
- Wednesday, Feb. 18 – Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
- Friday, Feb. 27 – Word, Wine & Wisdom at Union Cellars 4:30
- Point your device camera to the QR Code for the full list of Saint Paul's Events



Communion Stewards this Sunday & Class of 2028 Consistory Members.



Kathy Showers is a retired Milton Elementary teacher who now works part-time at the Inn at Lewisburg. You'll find her volunteering with Fresh Express, helping in our kitchen, and tending the beautiful flowerpots on our church porch each season. She's an animal lover who brings warmth and care to everything she does.



Ethan Cree is married to Hillary, and father of Finley, with a second child on the way! Ethan is a Civil Engineer with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. An avid hunter and outdoorsman, he loves spending time in God's creation.



Holly Barbella is mom to Maddie (a senior at Westchester) and twin boys Ben and Sam (confirmed here this year). Holly serves as Director of Nursing at UPMC Williamsport and rings with our Saint Paul's Bells @ The Farm. Ben wrestles and Sam plays soccer—the Barbella family is always on the move!



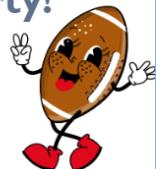
Jeanie Counsil is mom to Emerson, and together they bring joy wherever they go. Jeanie is a service coordinator in healthcare and a passionate advocate for children with autism. She sings in our Chancel Choir, assists in our sensory room, and treasures time with her family.

Please join us in welcoming this gifted group to Consistory leadership!

**Family Nights
@ The Farm**
2nd Sundays at 5 p.m.

 **Sunday, January 11
Potluck Dinner,
Hot Cocoa Bar,
Movie, and
Winter Crafts!**

**Sunday, February 8
Superbowl Party!
Bring your
favorite party
munchies!**



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. Speaking of sharing time and talent, pictured this week is *Drew Faust, aka Larry Prince, and Doug the Donkey, aka Rhett Sample during last Sunday’s “Manger Tales” annual Christmas Pageant.*



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 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.

Saint Paul’s @ The Farm

A United Church of Christ Community

50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg, PA 17837
Church Office Contact: 570-568-1433 / admin@spuccfarm.org
Pastor’s Email: PastorTim@spuccfarm.org
Church Website: <https://www.spuccfarm.org>