



Saint Paul's Possibilities

December 1, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

This year, Chip and I will mark our 9th Wedding Anniversary. It was nine years ago on December 27 - during the most wonderful time of year - that we said, "I do." One of the things that became an integral part of that day for us was the music. Organist and soloists were dear friends and a part of our family. Just before we walked down the aisle, the organ began with one low bass note and a dear friend with one of the richest Baritone voices began to sing, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." It was a way, for us, to invite God into the center of this celebration and a call, to center those in attendance on God's presence with us.

Rev. Rachel Billups in her book "An Unlikely Advent: Extraordinary People of the Christmas Story" writes that, "We understand the kingdom of God just a bit more when words are set to music, and we soak in the messages of truth and light in new ways. We connect once again when together we sing familiar words both ancient and future in the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Father Richard Rohr writes in "Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent" that "Jesus basically preached one sermon." Rohr goes on to say, Jesus preached about kingdom living and building, every time he spoke. Jesus told about the Kingdom of God, saying often using "it is like," or "it may be compared to." Jesus used stories, parables, and metaphors so that we could recognize what the Kingdom of God was like right here on earth. I would add Jesus lived in a way to show us all what "Kingdom living" - Emmanuel, God with us, living looked like.

When we live in a place of grace and love, we are living into the Kingdom of God. This is what I believe Jesus called us to create right here where we live our daily lives. Don't wait to see what it's like on the "other side" of this life, live in to it in the here and now. Create a community of God with us!

When we sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" we are beckoning Emmanuel, God with us, to come into our lives. The excitement is building the day Christ came to earth to ultimately show us how to live life

creating God's Kingdom is coming. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

Someone asked the question the other evening, isn't Easter more important than Christmas? I think they both are important. Without Christmas, though, we would not have Easter. Without Christ living on earth, how would we have known the redemptive, grace-filled, healing living we are called to which creates Kingdom? 2,000 years ago, things seemed pretty out of hand. The world seemed a pretty big mess. Religious leaders had often joined forces with the government in power. Segregation and delineation between who was in and who was out was at an all-time high. And if I read and understand correctly, then Jesus came into the world and the world changed. Audacious hope came alive, radical love prevailed, peace became attainable, and the joy of Kingdom creation became reality!

So, for me, I believe we center ourselves on this time of Advent, waiting, once again, and we prepare ourselves to renew our hearts and minds fixed upon God's greatest gift to us, the Christ child, who comes to call us once again to kingdom living. Maybe, just maybe, while I know many of you are Disney fans, maybe the happiest place on earth isn't Disney, but instead it is wherever we are creating the Kingdom living life that Jesus was born to teach us. God gifted us in learning from Christ our brother whom we celebrate this season. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." I don't know about you, but my heart yearns for this season and this very reminder, Christ was born for this, so let us celebrate the season! Amen!

Happy Advent, Pastor Tim

Please Join Us in Praying For ...

Gloria Baker
Linda Beaver
Sheryl Bernard
Charlotte Beshore
Robin Brown
Jeanie Council
The Engle Family
Chip Eschbach
Gail Ernest

Greyson Greenawalt
Ruth Henry
Katy Mahon
Paul Shaner
Flo Warner
Thomas Ward, Jr.
Wynn-Haven Family
Mental Health Needs
World Peace

Those with Life-Long Illnesses

Updates to our prayer list are made from our Saint Paul's Prayers and Love FB Group, phone calls to the church office, or fill out a prayer card located in our sanctuary.



The Farm Report

Gifts for Adolescents

Katy Mahon is 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. Deadline is December 14.

"A Little Extra"

During the holidays, we have families that could use a bit of extra help. 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.



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

The Little Red Wagon

Thank you 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.

A Thank You Received

"What an expression of love you gave our family by assuring that the Carillon was not left behind and instead moved to be enjoyed by the congregation. Those beautiful chimes offered our family such joy and a sense of "home" for so many years. And, although the town of West Milton will certainly be disappointed by this new silence, Brookpark will surely embrace its melodic peace. Thank you for transporting it home to the Farm and also for making mom awestruck. It meant the world." In love & appreciation, Jessica Mathias and Beth Azinger (Pat Korizno's daughters)



Advent Book Study

Our Wednesday evening **Interactive** has turned to Advent! For the four weeks of Advent and beginning Wednesday, November 29, we are exploring Rachel Billups book, "An Unlikely Advent" we gather at **6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall** and you are welcome to join any time.

Parents' Night Out

Hey Parents... on Saturday, December 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. 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. A sign-up sheet is on the Sanctuary Welcome Desk, and you may check in with Colleen Franciscus for more information.

The Smallest Gift

Monday, December 11, at 6 p.m. is the **3rd Annual Infant, Child Loss Remembrance** service and dinner at Amazing Grace Church in Northumberland. 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

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



Receiving Mail @ The Farm

Please know that we have a mailbox @ The Farm which is checked daily. If you wish to send mail, use:

SPUCC
50 Brookpark Circle
Lewisburg, PA 17837

Engage and Our Online Directory

Saint Paul's uses a website called Engage for our online directory of members and friends. As our church family continues to grow, we hope you will use Engage to help get to know each other. If you receive our weekly "planner" and "possibility" emails from the church office, you can create your own Engage account with the same email. Just click on the "Member Online Directory" box at the bottom of our website homepage to get started. Engage is a secure and private site where you can look up an address or phone number to reach out, see members of various groups, and even give tithes, offerings, and gifts online. If you need help or have questions, please see Donna in the office. And, we still have some people who do not have a photo in our online directory. With your Engage account, you can upload your photo. This is a great way to get to know everyone in our church family. You may also send your photo to our church office and we will gladly add it to our directory.

Volunteer Opportunities

The dates for this month's Fresh Express Food Distributions are: Thursday, December 14, and Thursday, December 28. Come join in fellowship @ The Farm from 1 to 5 p.m. as we unload the truck from the Central PA Food Bank and sort and distribute to our neighbors, now reaching 180+ families in our community! And, mark your calendar for the December 11 Harvest Meal at St. Andrews in Milton and in conjunction with the Bucknell Office of Civic Engagement, from 1 to 5 p.m. Always wonderful to help others!

Services & Sermons

It's a beautiful Advent and Christmas season @ The Farm. Please join us on the journey.



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"

Sometimes holidays can be tough so we want to acknowledge and honor wherever you are on your journey. Join us for a special Blue Christmas Service ...



Looking Ahead to 2023

While we always want to stay in the present moment, it's also important to share, for planning purposes, some of the things we have scheduled and coming up. Here are a few things we ask you to add to your early winter calendar:

January 7 - Epiphany Celebration

January 11 & 25 - Fresh Express

January 14 - Children & Youth Lock-in

January 21 - "2023-in-Review Annual Meeting & Ministry Celebration" followed by our monthly all-church lunch and fellowship

January 28 - Children, Youth, & Family Night 5 to 7:30

January 29 - Harvest Meal 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

February 11 - Our Annual Talent Show and Spaghetti Dinner 5 p.m.

February 14 - Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 p.m.

Celebrations

Dec 2 - Happy Birthday Doug Richard

Dec 5 - Happy Birthday Cooper Moyer

Dec 5 - Happy Birthday Nancy Sampsell

Dec 6 - Happy Birthday Dianne Covert

Dec 9 - Happy Birthday Doug Hagerman

Dec 12 - Happy Birthday Pat Korizno

Dec 16 - Happy Birthday Broghan Gill

Dec 17 - Happy Birthday Kelly Kazibwe

Dec 18 - Happy Birthday Shelly Sholley

Dec 18 - Happy Anniversary Barb & Dave Wagner



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 Lunch with the Pastor

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. Currently is an Advent Book Study ... "An Unlikely Advent," this group will explore the often-overlooked characters of the Advent story from November 29 to December 20.

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. **December 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 Patty.

10 a.m. Children's Choir - children through 7th 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

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

December 17 - "Christmas" Meal & Pageant

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. **December 11 (date change due to Christmas)**

Breakfast with Friends

Gather at the Silver Moon Restaurant on the 3rd 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. **December 22**

Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings November 26, 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: 462 Virtual Reach: 6,720

Attendance In Person: 135 (5 Visitors)

Christian Ed: 62

Plate Giving	\$ 12,792.02
Loose Plate	\$ 212.00
Online Giving	\$ <u>1,442.90</u>
Operational Total	\$ 14,446.92
General Restricted Giving	\$ <u>875.00</u>
Total Giving	\$ 15,321.92

Upcoming Worship

December 3, 2023 - Second Sunday of Advent

"Far and Wide" - A Story of Love

Isaiah 40:6-11; Mark 2:15-17

Worship Leader: Niki Weber

Lector: Richard Armstrong

Acolyte: Sample Family

Flowers: Pastor Tim and Chip

Breakfast Sponsor: Counsil & Eschbach Families

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon; D. Spear

December 10, 2023 - Third Sunday of Advent

"Wait, Look and Listen"

Luke 2:8-15

Worship Leader: Niki Weber

Lector: Autumn Faust

Acolyte: Parker Family

Flowers: The Gills

Breakfast Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon; D. Spear

December Usher Team: Earl & Terri Fisher, Bill & Lisa

Bernard, Dave & Barb Wagner, Chris Warner

