



# Saint Paul's Possibilities

November 24, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

## Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Advent is here! Advent, a time of waiting and preparation. However, I'm afraid many times when we hear the Carols and see the lights, we are off and running. We misconstrue the time to be a time of running around like a chicken with its head cut off, preparing for Christmas, instead of first preparing ourselves for the season. It seems we all have been or are guilty of skipping a step to prepare our own hearts for the season. And we need to recognize everyone prepares differently. Some like to include cooking and baking as a way to prepare. Some like to include Christmas music and decorating as a way to prepare. Some even like to make or purchase gifts for others. However you prepare, I believe we are called not to do it in haste (as a "have to") but as a gift (a "get to").

Advent is a time to set aside to perhaps be with relatives, certainly with family, neighbors, and friends. A time to breathe and center ourselves on the season's meaning. Prepare our hearts to share even more love than before. Prepare our mindset to live into loving and caring for our neighbor and the stranger in radical and beautiful ways. A time to spend renewing our hearts for what is to come: Christmas.

I read recently that if putting up your lights, and tree, and listening to Christmas music brings you joy, then do that. If sitting quietly, sharing a meal with family, taking a walk or ride to look at lights brings you joy, then do that. I find it hard to believe doing what prepares you for the season to be harmful to others. However, I could be biased because I love to put up the tree (ok, trees), turn on the lights, and listen to Christmas music. It reminds me of my childhood, and it is sort of an escape of sorts to me. It's funny - I can still hear a Christmas song and think about the first time I remember hearing it as a child, and I smile.

Maybe because I love to be immersed in a season about hope, peace, love, and joy. What better space to "just be" in?

This year I am going to ask all our families to participate in something new to us, born out of the pandemic. It's called "Jesus and the Community of Creation." In this preparation for the season, each family will receive a box with all they need for an Advent centering time at home with friends or families. Each week you will be asked to take items out of the box and prepare for a quiet time of centering and reflection. Week 1, for example, you will be asked to read Luke 1:26-56, offer a prayer for candlelighting, put together a growing container for your narcissus bulb, and send a note to an organization which helps women or a woman you know who may need some encouragement. Suffice it to say, each week is designed to be fun and interactive and draw our attention to the season and the reason for our celebration. The box also offers water colors, painting pages, and a star gazing guide to name a few other ways to explore the season.

Our hope is that families and friends will be able to share in intimate personal ways the preparation for the season, drawing us all closer together.

Advent, a time of preparation. Are you prepared for the season ahead? In this season may we all join in prayer as we pray:

*"This year, this year, let the let day arrive, when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive."*

***Peace, Pastor Tim***

## Please Join Us in Praying For ...

Linda Beaver	Tony Johnson
Sheryl Bernard	Katy Mahon
Charlotte Beshore	Keith Muffley
Robin Brown	Paul Shaner
The Engle Family	Flo Warner
Chip Eschbach	Thomas Ward, Jr.
Gail Ernest	Lisa Williams
David Gemberlin	Wynn-Haven Family
Greyson Greenawalt	Unspoken Requests
Liam Haggler	Mental Health Needs
Joanna Johnson	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

## 'Tis the Season

We often have people ask if there are families that need help during the holidays, or how may we participate in helping others to make the holidays a bit brighter. This year we have four ways to offer holiday assistance for you to choose from.

Locally, we will be assisting the **Donald Heiter Community Center** to adopt a child(ren). Our contact for this event will once again be **Jen Arnold**. The need and instructions are the same as in years past. See the codes on the "Prayers and Love Page," choose a code, add a comment as to which code you have chosen, shop for the gift(s), adhere the code to the gift and drop it off here at the church in the coat room by December 3.

**Katy Mahon** is also 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. Again, watch the prayers and love page.

**A Little Extra...** We have families that could use a bit of extra help during the Holidays. 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.

Finally, we can help both nationally and internationally through **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](http://www.heifer.org)

## Baby It's Cold Outside

So, would you help us keep it warm inside? As the weather gets colder and without a Narthex to enter before coming into our lovely Sanctuary, each time the doors are opened cold air comes rushing in. We would ask you to please be mindful and help us keep the warm in and the cold out. How, you may ask, can we do that? Well, we are glad you asked.

- Come in and stay in, settle in and be cozy warm.
- Use the Sanctuary doors only to enter and exit.
- Refrain from using the outside doors on the office side.

These three easy steps will help us in maintaining a warm welcoming place to worship.

## God Moments & Prayers

We are grateful to have so many people participate in our time of sharing where you have seen God in your lives as well as requesting prayers for loved ones and extended family. Please never stop sharing, as this is a beautiful sign of sacred safe space. Please keep in mind though that the details of illnesses are private, and we would ask you not to share specifics, only name and relationship to you if pertinent.

## Food Pantry & The Little Red Wagon

We are forever grateful 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

*"I would like to thank Saint Paul's for the wonderful luncheon served following Gary's funeral. I would also like to thank the dedicated members of the congregation who work to make sure that food is always available to family and friends. So many people stated how impressed they were with both the food and service provided by members of Saint Paul's. Please extend my appreciation to all." With many thanks, Deene Mathias*

## **Advent 2023 is Here!**

Please plan to be home @ The Farm for this season! Whenever you can, be active and participate in any way you feel led or are able, because as you know, we aren't the same when you are not here.

**Advent Book Study ... "An Unlikely Advent"** begins on Wednesday, November 29 at 6:30 p.m. Join Pastor Tim as he invites us in to explore Rachel Billups new book, "*An Unlikely Advent*" during the four Wednesday evenings of Advent and for the following three Wednesdays after. The group will be exploring the "often overlooked characters of the Advent story." Books for the study will be available through the church office beginning Sunday, November 19. Everyone is invited to join as we gather in Fellowship Hall.

**Parents' Night Out** is Saturday, December 9, from 5 to 9 p.m. Hey parents ... 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.

On Monday, December 11, is the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Infant, Child Loss Remembrance** service and dinner at Amazing Grace Church in Northumberland beginning at 6 p.m. 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** will be placed in the Sanctuary in Honor, Memory or Celebration of Friends, Family, Neighbors and Loved Ones from December 17 to December 24. The cost is \$12 each. Please complete an order form or submit an order online on our church website homepage. Deadline for orders is Friday, December 15.

## **Celebrations**

Nov 25 – Happy Birthday John Parrish

Nov 25 – Happy Birthday Donna Spear

Nov 26 – Happy Birthday Polly Barrall

Nov 27 – Happy Birthday Pat Bender

Nov 27 – Happy Birthday Gary Bennett

Nov 28 – Happy Birthday Molly Faust

Nov 29 – Happy Birthday Steve Rowe

Dec 2 – Happy Birthday Doug Richard

Dec 5 – Happy Birthday Cooper Moyer

Dec 5 – Happy Birthday Nancy Sampsell

## **Services & Sermons**

It's going to be a beautiful Advent and Christmas season @ The Farm. We hope you will join us on the journey.



Advent I, November 26

"Under the Influence" - a story of Hope

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"



## **Saint Paul's @ The Farm 2023 Advent Concert Series**

**Join us Sunday in Advent**

**November 26 ~ 6 p.m.  
MusiCraft Celtic Christmas**

**December 3 ~ 3 p.m.  
Almost There - Christmas Cantata**

**December 10 ~ 6 p.m.  
Re/Strung String Quartet**

*Dessert Reception following each Concert*

**50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg**



## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

### **December 17 - "Christmas" Meal & Pageant**

### Fourth 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**

### Breakfast with Friends

Gather at the Silver Moon Restaurant on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 19, 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: 6,969

Attendance In Person: 133 (2 Visitors)

Christian Ed: 46

Plate Giving	\$ 2,765.67
Loose Plate	\$ 244.75
Online Giving	\$ 664.21
Operational Total	\$ 3,674.63
General Restricted Giving	\$ 749.00
Total Giving	\$ 4,423.63

## Upcoming Worship

### November 26, 2023 - First Sunday of Advent

"Under the Influence of Hope"

Isaiah 40:3-5; Mark 1:1-11

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe

Lector: Carol Oberlin

Acolyte: Faust Family

Flowers: Consistory

Breakfast Sponsor: Faust, Oberlin, Kazibwe Families

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

### 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: A. Henry; D. Spear

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

*Bernard, Dave & Barb Wagner, Chris Warner*

