



Saint Paul's Possibilities

December 15, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

On Tuesday of this week, my mom, Chip, and I got to go for an outing: Christmas shopping for AND with my mother. For many people, this may not be the ideal God moment - in fact, anything but. However, if you know my mother at all, you also know she loves to shop! She doesn't always have to buy something, she just loves being out shopping, seeing what's available, having options, picking things that pique her interest and style. It was a great day. We went to two malls, had lunch in between and suffice it to say our shopping for her is complete. Most importantly, I got a day away with my mother and Chip. That was one of my God moments on Tuesday.

Wednesday morning, I got to sit and share over breakfast with some faith family members I adore and yet don't always get a lot of time to just sit and talk with. It was my own God moment. I got to catch up a little with each of them, hear about their families, how they and family members were doing and what they had been up to, how they were celebrating the holidays. They shared their own God moment experiences of family celebrations and laughter, of upcoming visits they were expecting, and how they each stayed in touch with one another and other faith family members. What a joy it was just to sit and be in the moment with all three of them, talking and laughing together.

Wednesday at Wednesday Evening Interactive, the group gathered, a dozen or more of us, and had a great time! Our conversation and discussion were inspired by the book "An Unlikely Advent" by Rachel Billups. We had just read about the Magi and the gifts which they brought to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. One member of the group had an "aha Holy moment" thinking about the gifts and their meaning. She was truly inspired in those moments and took each of us through her discovery. It was exciting and fun, and whether we got the same understanding from it or not, the "aha Holy moment" of the discovery was beautiful and inspiring. We all understood what a beautiful "God moment" she had experienced - which she shared with us.

On Thursday morning, I got an email from a dear friend who was still talking about the stories from Wednesday Interactive and she reminded me of something as she wrote: "I liked last evening's meeting. Those moments of insight are very individual and personal. Maybe each of us were not able to relate to it in the same way, but those moments can be life changing for the person. It's wonderful to share them so that we all understand that these mystical (God / Holy) moments are very much a part of each of our lives." I thought about what my friend had written, and I thought about the beautiful moment in the life of one, in which we all got to experience the evening before.

Put into context, God moments become greater moments of awareness of the closeness of the Holy. Those moments bring us closer God, especially through one another, when we know and understand what something means to someone. We get to know one another better and are drawn closer by understanding their life, this, in itself is a Holy experience.

In the first story of my mom shopping, while as acknowledged, this may not be a God moment for many, it was quite fun for her, she is 93 and remembers growing up in a time when you had little to choose from, little to purchase with, and the only place you could go was to a small general store with very few choices, especially during the great depression. So an outing like this still sparks excitement for her, whether purchasing something or not. Getting to see her so animated is a God moment for us. ...Pastor Tim's Reflection continues on Page 3

Please Join Us in Praying For ...

Debbie Basom
Linda Beaver
Sheryl Bernard
Charlotte Beshore
Jeanie Counsil
The Engle Family
Chip Eschbach
Gail Ernest
Greyson Greenawalt
Ruth Henry

Katy Mahon
Family of Jack Thurstin
Paul Shaner
Kathleen Wallace
Thomas Ward, Jr.
Carolyn Wuerdeman
Wynn-Haven Family
Mental Health Needs
World Peace
Unspoken Requests

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

Family Christmas @ The Farm

What can you expect when we gather at 5 p.m. this Sunday evening, December 17, for our Family Christmas gathering? Bring you! Bring your family! Bring neighbors and friends! BUT, you don't need to bring a side dish to share, for this is our annual All-Church Christmas meal, catered by our own Sharon Styer! Dinner begins at 5 p.m. followed by our Pageant at 6 p.m. and then desserts and a special guest visitor after the pageant! What an evening to celebrate the season! Please plan to come and spend a fun evening with your faith family and friends! A basket will be placed at the entrance for a free-will offering to help offset the cost of the dinner if you would like to participate in this way.

A Special Thank you!



As you gather @ The Farm, look up! Moving to this space has taught us different ways to do things. One of the things in particular is we don't have pews

so we cannot use pew candles for our candlelight services. Therefore, thanks to the talents of two of our family members, we have our newest addition, lanterns! Fourteen new lanterns adorn our Sanctuary thanks to the talents of Scott Baylor and Doug Kister. Inside the lanterns are repurposed candles from the former St. John's UCC, in New Columbia, thanks to their handiwork as well. Wow, parts of our history, parts of our present, and future, all combined to help create and adorn our sacred space. Please join us in a heartfelt thanks to Scott and Doug for their beautiful workmanship and a prayer of thanks for St. John's legacy living on here in this space as well.

We also received a lovely thank you from the folks at the Bucknell Office of Civic Engagement: *"Dear Saint Paul's UCC, You all have helped us so much with Community Harvest! With our combined efforts, we were ble to reach so many families and individuals and overall move closer to food security in Milton. It was an amazing year, and we look forward to 2024! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"*

Gather & Volunteer This Week @ The Farm!

Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 to 9 p.m., a Wishing You the Best Party! A celebration in honor of Chris Arnold before he is deployed! The gathering will include snacks and a time to just visit, here @ The Farm.

Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. – Advent IV Worship with both the Chancel and Bell Choirs

Sunday evening, 5 p.m. – All church dinner, Children's Pageant, and Special guest!

Monday Morning, 11:30 a.m. – Reflections (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. – Lunch with the Pastor in the Hall

Wednesday evening 5:15 p.m. – Bell Choir Practice – Sanctuary

Wednesday evening 6:30 p.m. – Wednesday Interactive – Advent IV

Friday evening 6 p.m. – Caroling for our shut-ins. Please gather @ The Farm by 6 p.m. and join us for an evening of caroling. We will return to the farm for hot chocolate and cookies by 8 p.m.

The Little Red Wagon

Our Little Red Wagon helps supply our Emergency Pantry, which is coming in very handy for our neighbors, especially this time of year. While with your help we have been able to provide a balanced pantry offering shelf stable soups, veggies, and more, there are several items which would be helpful to have, and we are certain would be appreciated. Nothing fancy, however these are things the Assistance Programs do not pay for, and we can stock in our pantry:

- Pet foods (wet & dry, cat & dog)
- Cleaning supplies, paper products, and other household supplies.
- Hygiene items, toothpaste, soap, and deodorant

If you are so inclined this Holiday season, pick up a few extras from the list above. Bring them in, drop them in the wagon (just inside Fellowship Hall) and join us as we seek to help all our neighbors.

2024 Altar Flowers

If you wish to reserve a Sunday in 2024 to sponsor Altar Flowers, please contact the church office. Or, you may use the online form on the homepage of our website. Flowers are \$50

Overflowing with Talent

We have had a record number of volunteers wanting to get involved in the helping here @ The Farm. WE have 60 volunteers for our worship leadership teams with many new faces showing up in direct relation to our Talent Survey (blue sheet) Surveys. If you have not filled one out, you may do so any time, just check in with Donna in the office to update or share your gifts and talents via our survey. As for Worship Leadership Teams, please check your email and don't hesitate to ask questions. You are the face of Saint Paul's to first time visitors, and we are excited so many people want to welcome and help others in this way!

Blue Christmas Service

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 on Thursday, December 21, at 7 p.m. @ The Farm. This is a community-wide event sponsored by Driesbach and Saint Paul's @ The Farm UCCs. All are welcome. Saint Paul's Chancel and Bell Choirs will perform as part of the service.

Looking Ahead to 2024

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 1 to 5
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 22 - Harvest Meal @ St. Andrews 1 to 5
January 28 - Children, Youth, & Family Night 5 to 7:30
February 11 - Our Annual Talent Show and Spaghetti Dinner 5 p.m.
February 14 - Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 p.m.

Celebrations

Dec 17 - Happy Birthday Kelly Kazibwe
Dec 18 - Happy Birthday Shelly Sholley
Dec 18 - Happy Anniversary Barb & Dave Wagner
Dec 20 - Happy Birthday Lillie Franciscus
Dec 22 - Happy Birthday Adam Taylor
Dec 23 - Happy Birthday Katy Mahon & Dane Santos
Dec 24 - Happy Birthday Carol Oberlin
Dec 25 - Happy Birthday Diane Bettleyon
Dec 25 - Happy Birthday Don Emory
Dec 26 - Happy Birthday Carol Snyder
Dec 27 - Happy Anniversary Pastor Tim & Chip
Dec 28 - Happy Anniversary Sharon & Kevin Styer
Dec 31 - Happy Birthday Dennis Heverly & Tom Ward



Join Us for Christmas Eve Services Saint Paul's @ The Farm UCC 50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg

December 24, 2023 - Christmas Eve
10:30 a.m. "Lessons on Carols"

4:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion
"In the Midst of the Mess"
Luke 2:1-7

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion
with Special Music
"The Knock at the Door"
Isaiah 52:7-10; Revelation 3:19-22; Luke 2:8-20

Pastor Tim's Reflection continued...

In the second paragraph I shared about our Wednesday Interactive experience. The person sharing had an understanding of what the gifts the magi brought and how they related to her own life's understanding, some of the research and work she had done in her life. And so she was able to share the story in a way in which it came alive for her and us. And brought us all a little closer to her.

The final story I shared about sitting for a few moments and having a meal with some of my faith family. Those moments, that pause in the midst of the crazy busy, were a great gift just to get to sit and talk, even for 30 minutes. I got to hear how God was working and moving in their lives.

I share these things because I believe the Holy meets us where we are. We get to share in the excitement of aha moments and in the joy others experience if we but pause and take time to listen and understand. While these moments may or may not be our aha moment, they are ones we can relate to if we get to know the person we are sharing stories with. God brings us closer together in these moments, I believe, and that in itself is truly the mark of God moments in our lives, being brought closer to those around us and closer to God through others.

My prayer is that in this season of Advent, you get to have time with others to hear their stories, experience their aha moments, and discover the ways they have experienced joy in their lives. It doesn't have to be elaborate, but just time to be, share, and listen. My best guess is that the Holy will be a part of your time together and your heart will experience joy. Here's to the joy of the season. May you grow closer to one another and in turn closer to God.

Blessings, Pastor Tim

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. **Dec 28; Jan 11 & 25**

Sundays @ Saint Paul's

9 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal - 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 5 p.m.

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. **January 22**

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. **January 17 (weather permitting)**

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 December 10, 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: 432 Virtual Reach: 10,488

Attendance In Person: 93 (1 Visitor)

Christian Ed: 59

Plate Giving \$ 1,662.00

Loose Plate \$ 86.00

Online Giving \$ 416.60

Operational Total \$ 2,164.60

General Restricted Giving \$ 736.61

Total Giving \$ 2,901.21

Year-End Giving - Should you be planning a tax-deductible gift to Saint Paul's, all tithes, gifts, and offerings must be received in the church office by Friday, December 29. Donations through online giving, Engage, may be made until midnight on Sunday, December 31.

Upcoming Worship

December 17, 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

"The Defining Moment"

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:20-25

Worship Leader: Niki Weber Lector: Ed Prowant

Acolyte: Hagan Family Flowers: Sharon Foust

Breakfast Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: C. Franciscus; D. Spear

December 24, 2023 - Christmas Eve

10:30 a.m. "Lessons on Carols"

Worship Leader: Niki Weber

Acolyte: Kazibwe Family

Flowers: Sharon and Kevin Styer

Breakfast Sponsor: Available

4:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion

"In the Midst of the Mess"

Lector: Mallory Sample - Luke 2:1-7

Acolyte: The Barbella Family

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion

"The Knock at the Door"

Isaiah 52:7-10; Revelation 3:19-22; Luke 2:8-20

Lector: Keegan Gill

Acolyte: The Gill Family

Offering Counter: E. Fisher; D. Spear

December Usher Team: Earl & Terri Fisher, Bill & Lisa Bernard, Dave & Barb Wagner, Chris Warner



Saint Paul's @ the Farm
A United Church of Christ Community

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