



Saint Paul's @ the Farm

A United Church of Christ Community

Welcoming you on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. December 17, 2023

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 rows, 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 staffed nursery open for newborns to three years of age. Additionally, we offer Children's Church immediately following our "time with the children" for children ages 3 through 2nd grade. 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

Gathering of the Community

Gathering Music

Sharon Styer

Choral Introit – Chancel Choir

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow” / trad. spiritual

Welcome

Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

News from the Pews

Niki Weber

Time of Centering

“Deck the Halls” / arr. C. Moklebust
Bell Choir

***Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Candles:**

Niki Weber and the Hagan Family

Leader: Lord, we long to follow you as closely as Mary and Joseph did.

People: Yet we are uncertain and uneasy.

Leader: We so often seek peace of our own making,

People: Even when we know there is only one way to the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Leader: Let us seek peace through you Lord, the Christ Child.

Pastor: *“Hope for peace Child, God’s stupendous sign, down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine,”*

People: “This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive.”

*Hymn of Praise, no. 128

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Proclaiming the Word

God Moments and Concerns of the Family

Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Preparing our Hearts for Prayer

“A Nativity Prayer” / P. Brooks

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today.”*

Pastoral Prayer / The Family at 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

“There Is Faint Music” / Buckley and Forrest

Time with Our Children

Colleen Franciscus

Lectionary

Rev. Ed Prowant

*Gospel Lessons: Luke 1:26-38 (*page 779 in your pew Bible*)
Matthew 1:20-25 (*page 733 in your pew Bible*)
*Lector: This is the word of God for all God's Children.
*All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Response

"Angels We Have Heard on High [refrain]" / trad.

"Gloria, In Excelsis Deo, Gloria, In Excelsis Deo!"

Sermon

"The Defining Moment"
Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Responding to the Word

Reflecting on the Message

"Emmanuel" / B. McGee

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

Offering

Offertory

"Voluntary on an Old English Carol" / J. S. Dixon / Sharon Styer

Presentation of Our Gifts

To give electronically, you may scan the QR code on the back of your bulletin

*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

Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

*Closing Hymn, no. 152

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

*Benediction

*Benedictory Response

"Star Child" / S. Murray

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

*Postlude

"O Little One Sweet" / J. Mansfield / Sharon Styer

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

*Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Sharon Foust
in celebration of Shelly Sholley's birthday on December 18.*



Join Us for Christmas Eve Services

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

Saint Paul's Leadership Team

Pastor	Timothy Hogan-Palazzo
Church Administrative Assistant	Donna Spear
Minister of Music / Chancel Choir	Russell Wynn, Jr.
Assistant Minister of Music / Children's Choir	Sharon Styer
Assistant Minister of Music / Bell Choir	Patty Wagner
Children's Church	Colleen Franciscus
Director of Faith Formation	Colleen Franciscus
Child Care Attendant	Cory Mahon
Sexton	Steve Brown
Tech Team	Chip Palazzo, Elias Franciscus, Derek Longan, Heath Hansum
Financial Secretary	Dianne Covert
Treasurer	Doug Hagerman

Consistory

Brad Gill –President/Trustee	Amy Armstrong ('26) - Deacon
Jen Arnold ('24) – Deacon	Lisa Bernard ('24) – Vice President/Trustee
Don Emory ('26) – Deacon	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
Jennifer VanHorn ('26) - Trustee	

Church Contact and Connections

Church Address:	50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg, PA 17837
Office Contact:	570-568-1433 / admin@spuccwm.org
Pastoral Emergencies:	570-975-9536 (Pastor Tim's cell)
Pastor's Email:	PastorTim@spuccwm.org
Online Directory:	https://engage.suran.com/spuccwm
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



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