



Saint Paul's Possibilities

December 8, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In

Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

Matthew 10:6-7 talks about telling your neighbors the kingdom of heaven is here. Kingdom creation right where we live is what we are to be about. Not so much in the telling but in the living as example. Bring health to the sick, touch the untouchable, share your strength with others, show others the grace you have been shown. Offer respect for all your neighbors and create kingdom life right where you are. That is the hope of this season.

Yet, first we must see the kingdom for what God intended, which more often than not, is left up to our interpretation; us creating God in the image we want or need in the moment. The Disciples tried to do that, and Jesus called them on it. Each time. If we say the kingdom is one of radical love, grace, and respect for all God's children, then that needs to be the vision we are living out. The actions we are taking, the way we treat others, it all hinges on the way we see the world. Are we viewing it through the eyes of a loving, grace-filled God, seeing all the possibilities? Or are we seeing it through the eyes of our own biases, to be judge and jury because of the way they look, the clothes they wear, the neighborhoods where they live - those who are surely in and those who are clearly out?

Here's something to think about, if we were looking for Jesus to be born in today's world, where would we expect to find Mary and Joseph right now? Would we find them in a limousine, weaving through the streets of the upper East side of New York heading now toward Boston to Brigham and Women's Hospital, the number one OB/GYN hospital in the country? Or maybe we wouldn't have such high expectations. Perhaps today's Mary and Joseph would be driving themselves to Danville - to the Janet Weis Hospital? Would any of us expect to find Mary and Joseph making it through the streets of the south side of Philadelphia or Chicago, or the Bronx, on foot or trying to hail a cab? So that they may get to a birthing center in the "sketchiest" part of town?

We have lots of expectations and preconceived notions of what it all should look like. And we can easily miss the point that this is the greatest love story ever told. Or just pack it away in January and forget God sent God's only son to experience life in a way which teaches us what love really looks like? I'm afraid without doing the work, we may be like the church

folk that want growth without the willingness to make a change in the way we've always done things. Because I am afraid, we, like the Disciples, we want to keep redefining it to make ourselves more comfortable.

In this season of Advent, of preparing, we are asked to let go of things that separate us from God's love for us, things that keep us from fully creating God's kingdom, a heavenly kingdom right here. I believe this includes letting go of our preconceived notions - those ideas of who is in and who is out, of who we care for and who we don't - and really - let's just care for them all.

Richard Rohr, in his daily Advent devotion, "Preparing for Christmas" asks, "What misperceptions do you have about God's kingdom?" and "What perspectives do you need to gain?" Both are excellent questions I believe that prompt us to let go of things that cloud or obstruct our vision as to what is really happening.

In a few weeks now, we will celebrate Christmas, the joy, the excitement, the coming of light and love into a sometimes cold and dark world. Possibilities are endless and life can be uncertain. So, we must face the hardest question from within ourselves. How do we keep the love light alive and strong in our community? How do we rise up from this season in renewal of our life's goal / charge, to create the kingdom of heaven right where we are?

I'm afraid it is an individual decision we must make; a personal commitment we must seek to achieve, which includes a way of life we must set our eyes upon.

Lots of questions, lots of decisions, but all quite attainable if we can but create the kingdom of heaven right where we are, with its foundation set squarely on the love that this season's gifts us all with. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Happy Advent, Pastor Tim

Please Join Us in Praying For ...

Linda Beaver	Katy Mahon
Sheryl Bernard	Paul Shaner
Charlotte Beshore	Flo Warner
Jeanie Counsil	Thomas Ward, Jr.
The Engle Family	Carolyn Wuerdeman
Chip Eschbach	Wynn-Haven Family
Gail Ernest	Mental Health Needs
Greyson Greenawalt	World Peace
Ruth Henry	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

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.

"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.



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.**

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 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

This is the last week to order Christmas poinsettias, which will be placed in our Sanctuary from December 17 to 24, 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.**



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, 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.

Gather & Volunteer This Week @ The Farm!

Parent's Night - Saturday evening, December 8, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Dinner Included)

Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m. & RE/STRUNG Advent Concert 6 p.m. December 10

Monday Morning Reflections – 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Fellowship Hall)

Harvest Meal – Monday, December 11, 1 to 5 p.m. (St. Andrew's in Milton)

Friends Who Breakfast – Wednesday, December 13, 9:30 a.m. (Silver Moon Restaurant)

Lunch with the Pastor In the Hall – Wednesday, December 13, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Interactive for Advent – 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Week III)

Fresh Express - Thursday, December 14, 1 to 5 p.m.



Services & Sermons

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



Advent III, December 10
"Fear Not?" - 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 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 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

Dec 20 – Happy Birthday Lillie Franciscus

Dec 22 – Happy Birthday Adam Taylor

Dec 23 – Happy Birthday Katy Mahon

Dec 23 – Happy Birthday Dane Santos



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 December 3, 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: 924 Virtual Reach:

Attendance In Person: 140 (3 Visitors)

Christian Ed:

Plate Giving	\$ 2,992.32
Loose Plate	\$ 257.00
Online Giving	\$ 902.93
Operational Total	\$ 4,152.25
General Restricted Giving	\$ 1,570.00
Total Giving	\$ 5,722.25

Upcoming Worship

December 10, 2023 –Third Sunday of Advent

"Fear Not?"

Luke 2:8-15

Worship Leader: Niki Weber

Lector: Autumn Faust

Acolyte: Parker Family

Flowers: The Gills

Breakfast Sponsor: Arnold Family

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon; D. Spear

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: The Gills

Breakfast Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: C. Franciscus; D. Spear

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

