



Saint Paul's Possibilities

December 29, 2023

News & Ways to Plug In



Powered by Grace and Coffee

Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

As we end another calendar year, there are two words that come to mind: thankful and blessed. Not in a polly-anna sort of way, but in a way to say, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and blessedness as we bring 2023 to a close. I even wanted to reread the formal definitions of the words because really, no words seem to fully explain how my heart has felt this year.

Gratitude is defined as a thankfulness, or gratefulness, a feeling of appreciation by a recipient of another's kindness. This kindness can be gifts, help, favors, or another form of generosity to another person. The word comes from the Latin word "gratus" which means "pleasing" or "thankful."

The second word, Blessed, is defined as divinely or happily favored; fortunate to have, do, or experience something: often used in a lighthearted way or to avoid sounding boastful: We've been blessed with excellent health. You're blessed to have such a supportive family.

Yes, I do believe these may be the two best words, even in their shortcomings, because this is the closest to words that I can put my feelings over what I have experienced through our faith family this year. The work we have been able to accomplish together, serving our neighbors, providing help and support both physically and spiritually just has me in awe. The way this family walks beside one another, no matter what walk of life we come from, we are on the same journey, all walking each other home in beautiful ways of unconditional love and support. The ways when something needs to get done, we do it together.

And it all happens because we are able to invite God and the Holy to freely walk with us. When

we didn't know where we would be, God was with us and everyone said, we're in this together. When we found out we would be creating worship space where there hadn't been one, as we knew it before, God was there, and we all rolled up our sleeves and here we are. When we discovered a quick turnaround to a new space may not be possible, God was there and we all joined forces (our gifts and talents) and made it happen. It just seems like it was always meant to be. In the words of so many, the Farm just "feels like home."

When there are things to do, whether it's water plants, fix a meal, pick up around the church house, serve our neighbors in Milton with a meal, serve a few hundred people groceries, package food for our neighbors, gather for a Bible Study or a social event, people are here, or there, wherever there is a need, there you can find others to help.

So, as we end 2023, we can count our blessings, I believe we can consider ourselves blessed, and above all give thanks to God with a grateful heart that we can do all we do, to be the best followers of Christ's example of love and grace and respect for one another we can be.

Really words can't do justice to what my heart experiences daily in this faith family.

Thankful and blessed.

Happy New Year, Pastor Tim

Please Join Us in Praying For ...

Linda Beaver	Katy Mahon
Charlotte Beshore	Paul Shaner
Jeanie Council	Thomas Ward, Jr.
The Engle Family	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

This Week @ The Farm

All regular weekly church activities and gatherings will return the week of January 8, 2024. Our church offices will be closed on New Year's Day.

The Little Red Wagon

Our Little Red Wagon helps supply our Emergency Food Pantry, which continues to come in very handy for our neighbors, especially this time of year. And we are grateful for Diane Bettleyon who keeps our pantry shelves organized with great love and care. Here are some items that could use replenishing. If you would like to help in this way, you may drop off items in the little red wagon on Sunday mornings or drop off throughout the week as well.

Stove Top Stuffing	Instant Mashed Potatoes
Spaghetti	Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Pineapple	Strawberry Jam
Canned Pears	Grape Jam
Canned Carrots	Peanut Butter
Canned Potatoes	Oatmeal
Canned Peas	Cereal
Veg Beef Soup	Cranberry Sauce
Canned Tuna	Paper Towels

Church Lock-In

On Sunday, January 14, (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend) we will host our first church lock-in in many years! This is for children and youth, with dinner and activities. For children age pre-K to early Elementary (2nd grade), come from 5 to 7 p.m. for a breakfast themed dinner and a movie. Kids are encouraged to bring a sleeping bag. Then for upper Elementary (3rd grade and up) / Middle School – starting by 8 p.m... a movie, pizza, games, and maybe a bowling outing prior), again bring your sleeping bags because you are invited to spend the night at the church (with adult supervision). High school aged children are invited for the entire evening, all activities and special activities. Sign-up here at the church at the Sanctuary Welcome Desk starting this week!

All Church Year in Review and 2023 Ministry Celebrations

Sunday, January 21, 2024, immediately following Worship... Come for worship, join us for the celebration, and stay for lunch! Speaking of lunch, are you ready for a Chili Cookoff!

Chili Cookoff

Sunday, January 21, 2024! Think you have the best Chili recipe? Let's put your recipe to the test! Immediately following our All Church 2023 Ministry Celebration we will host another first, a Chili Cookoff @ The Farm as our January meal. You are invited to bring your crockpot of Chili for tasting and sharing. Don't have a favorite family recipe or you're not a chili fan? Then, bring another dish to share, cornbread, salad, baked potatoes, desserts, whatever works for you. A sign-up sheet will be in Fellowship Hall beginning this week, Sunday, December 31! Bring on the Chili!

Valentine's Day

What are you doing for Valentine's Day? Here's an offer of great love and significance. Wednesday, February 14, 2024, is also Ash Wednesday. If you are inclined, you may join members of your faith family first for a soup and sandwich meal at 6 p.m. and then for worship at 7 p.m. as a time to both celebrate Valentine's Day and mark the beginning of the season of Lent with a time of reflections and imposition of ashes. We hope you will plan to join your family here for this momentous occasion, as there was no greater love than this of which we honor and remember in this season.

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 and are beautifully arranged by our own Susie Gearhart at The Blooming Rooster in Lewisburg.



We received a lovely Christmas card from the Wagner family...

*"Dear Saint Paul's,
Merry Christmas.
Thank you for
opening your
hearts and family
to us. We are truly
blessed to be
welcomed into your
loving fellowship.
With Love, Patty,
Eric, and Thomas
Wagner.*

Got Talent?

Last year Gloria Lehman chose "Spaghetti on the Farm" for our annual talent show theme, when little did we know we would be headed to the farm a few months later. What will this year's show reveal? Hopefully talents of many. See Gloria Lehman to sign-up for the talent portion of the show. Singing, dancing, playing an instrument(s), reciting a poem, no matter what your talent, we would love to have you participate, and stay tuned to learn about our famous Italian dinner that evening as well! All proceeds will benefit the music programs of the church, so mark your calendars now, Sunday, February 11, 2023, (last Sunday before Lent). Watch this space for this year's theme!

Volunteer Opportunities

The dates for January's Fresh Express Food Distributions are: Thursday, January 11, and Thursday, January 25. 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 January 22 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!

Coffee Hour

Each Sunday 10 a.m. to 10:30, join your church family around the tables in Fellowship Hall for coffee, hot tea, and a bite of breakfast. If you would like to sponsor Coffee Hour, please sign up on the sheet just inside Fellowship Hall.

Celebrations

Dec 31 – Happy Birthday Dennis Heverly
Dec 31 – Happy Birthday Tom Ward
Jan 3 – Happy Birthday Robin Brown
Jan 3 – Happy Birthday Nicole Cuer
Jan 3 – Happy Birthday Ruth Henry
Jan 3 – Happy Anniversary Gary & Donna Bennett
Jan 4 – Happy Birthday Erica Arnold
Jan 4 – Happy Birthday Amelia Henry
Jan 6 – Happy Birthday Matt Cardellino
Jan 6 – Happy Birthday Brad Gill



The Work of Christmas

When the song of the
angels is stilled, when the
star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and
princes are home, when
the shepherds are back
with their flocks, the
work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost, to heal
the broken to feed the
hungry, to release the
prisoner, to rebuild the
nations, to bring peace
among the people, to
make music in the
heart.



On the Weekly Journey

Monday Morning Reflections, 11:30 a.m. – returns Jan 8

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 – returns Jan 10

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 – returns Jan 3

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 – returns Jan 10

Meeting at 6:30 p.m. weekly. On January 10 we will gather to begin wrapping up "Everybody Always." All are welcome to jump in for this great discussion.

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. **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!

January 21 All-Church Potluck Chili Cookoff following worship

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. **January 26**

Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings December 24, 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: 999 Virtual Reach: 6,903
Attendance In Person: 290 (49 Visitors)

Plate Giving	\$ 5,372.32
Loose Plate	\$ 760.00
Online Giving	\$ <u>618.42</u>
Operational Total	\$ 6,750.74
General Restricted Giving	\$ <u>315.00</u>
Total Giving	\$ 7,065.74

Upcoming Worship

December 31, 2023 –First Sunday of Christmas

"A New Day Dawning"

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Worship Leader: Niki Weber

Lector: Cyndy Kister

Acolyte: Ritter Family

Flowers: Hogan-Palazzo

Breakfast Sponsor: Hagan Family

Offering Counter: S. Brown; D. Spear

January 7, 2024 –Epiphany Sunday

"Star Child"

Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Shelly Sholley

Acolyte: Lillie Franciscus

Flowers: Available

Breakfast Sponsor: Franciscus Family

Offering Counter: A. Mahon; D. Spear

*January Greeter/Usher Team: Don & Peggy Emory,
Amy Mahon, Rhonda Newton, Sue Mahon, Reba
Rohrer, Donna & Gary Bennett, Drew Faust*



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

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