

Weekly News from
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org



Share the Good News of
CHRISTMAS



Sunday, January 2, 2022
Second Sunday after Christmas

Free WiFi: StPaulsUCC-Guest & StPaulsUCC-5G-Guest
Password (for both): iamheretosome

††† Worship Participants & Sponsorships †††
 Thank you to all who have made this worship experience possible.

<u>Today</u>	
January 2nd	
Usher Captain	Elsa W.
Usher Co-Captain	Geri G.
Usher/Greeter	Mary Ann S.
Usher/Greeter	Ray T.
Acolyte	Wynn H.
Crucifer	Paul S.
Welcome/Lector	Sheri R.
Cantor	Brian K.
Children's Message	Pastor Ben
AV Tech	Kirk A.
Koffee Klatch	Alberta M.
Bulletins	-
Altar Flowers	-

The Bulletins are given by
Open

The Altar Flowers are given by
Open

† Prayer List †

*Please lift up those listed here in your prayers this week.
 "Pray for one another, so that you may be healed.
 The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." ~ James 5:16b*

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Sam B.
 Tina B.
 Rich D.
 Bridget E.
 Chris E.
 Andy G.
 Barry H.
 Leigh H.
 Nevin K.
 Jim & Donna K.
 Janice L.
 Donald L.
 Donna L.
 Ella L.
 Edmund L.
 Owen M.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Amy M.
 George M.
 Gary N.
 Terry P.
 Fred R.
 John R.
 Earl S.
 John S.
 Jim S.
 Rob & Jodi S.
 Bryce S.
 Spencer Family
 Bailey U.
 Nancy & Lee V.
 Elsa W.
 Austin W's grandfather

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Jed C.
 Family & Friends of Richard H.
 Family & Friends of Jon H.
 Family & Friends of James L.
 Family & Friends of Diane M.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19
 Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19
 Those who serve in the armed forces

*Please let us know if we can be in prayer with you.
 All are welcome to add names to the prayer list.*

*Names are generally left on the list for about four weeks.
 Please let us know if you would like a name to remain longer or shorter.
 If you would like someone's name added to the prayer list,
 please contact the church office at 610-621-5770 or office@sprucc.org.*

††† General Announcements †††

Visitation Care Team

Our Visitation Care Team (VCT) is composed of lay members who have been trained for visitation. If you are in need of prayer, a visit, or just a listening ear, they are here to be of support to you. To contact the Visitation Care Team with a visitation request or to share information about a potential care need email the VCT at CareTeam@spruce.org. For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at www.spruce.org under the "ministries" tab.

Sunday School

Sunday school for adults and youth takes place each Sunday morning from 9:00-9:45am. Both adult and youth classes will be shared with Zion UCC. Please join us to learn more about God's Word. **Sunday school will resume next Sunday, January 9.**

Weekly Morning Bible Study - Tuesdays

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00am, Zion UCC offers a Zoom Bible Study based on the scripture passages for the coming Sunday. The study goes from 9:00-9:45am. All are invited! The same Zoom numbers are used each week.

To join the Zoom meeting use the following:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452124156?pwd=RzI3dTI4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09>

Meeting ID: 874 5212 4156

Passcode: 783249

For people joining with telephone, choose one of these numbers:

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Church Choir Rehearsals - Thursdays

Please consider joining the church choir. They meet once a week on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00pm in the Upper Room on the second floor of the church. Masks will be optional if you are vaccinated. Please contact Pastor Bob if you have any questions. His phone number is 610-927-8741.

Handbell Choir Rehearsals - Thursdays

The Handbell Choir meets once a week for practice, and usually performs once a month during the Worship Service. They are a fun bunch, always on the lookout for additional ringers. They meet to practice on Thursdays at 7:00pm. If you would like additional information, please contact the church office (the secretary, Geri, is a bell ringer and can answer any of your questions).

Set Your Cell Phone Alarm for Noon Every Day

Why? To thank God in unison for our blessings as congregations worshipping together. To ask for God's guidance as we begin serious discussions about the possibility of becoming a new congregation with a new name.

Pray: God, we pray for your guidance. Is this your will or is this not your will? Reveal your plan to us. Guide us through every step of your plan, whatever that is. Amen.

Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Hats, Scarves, Mittens, Gloves

For the month of December, we have been collecting donations of new hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves for Opportunity House in Reading and for St. Paul's Clothing Closet. Thank you to everyone who have brought so many wonderful, beautiful, and warm items! They will be delivered soon.

Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner

Yesterday the Men's Group had their Annual Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner. **THANK YOU** to everyone who assisted in the preparation, cooking, delivery, and cleanup. A full report of the dinner will be coming soon. Happy New Year everyone!

Liturgical Dance

We are very excited to have a new worship experience at St. Paul's Church next Sunday, **January 9th** at 10:15am. Liturgical dance is a Christian form of prayer and worship through bodily movement. It is a tool that God may use to deliver His message of love, salvation, healing, encouragement and/or deliverance through dance and music. A friend of Zion UCC who is gifted in Liturgical Dance will be dancing during this worship service. This particular Sunday is also the Sunday that we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men on Epiphany. We hope you will join us to experience this wonderful form of worship.

Communications Workshop

On Tuesday, **January 11th** from 6:00-6:45pm Pastor Ben will be offering a Communications Workshop. This workshop is for any person who wishes to submit an article for the newsletter, bulletin, website, or hang a flyer in the church building. This workshop is designed to make sure that articles, flyers, posters, etc. fit the necessary guidelines used within the church. This workshop is free. Advance registration is not required, but encouraged so that materials may be sent to you in advance. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend.

Women's Afternoon Luncheon

All women of St. Paul's and Zion UCC are invited to the monthly luncheon held at Country Fare in Myerstown. This month it will be held on Thursday, **January 13th** at 12:00noon. Please let Pastor Mary Etta know if you are planning to attend. She will need to know by Monday, January 10th, so that an accurate reservation may be made. Friends are welcome as well. Typically the luncheon is held on the second Thursday of the month. However, in February, the luncheon will shift to the third Thursday (February 17) for one time only. The luncheon is always scheduled for 12noon. Hope to see you there.

The Book of Acts Bible Study

The next session of the Book of Acts Bible Study will take place on Wednesday, **January 19th** from 6:00-7:00pm (please note the time change). Pastor Mary Etta is our teacher and guide. There are a total of 4 sessions left in our study: January 19, January 26, February 16 & February 23. We hope you will join us in-person or remotely via Zoom. The necessary Zoom info is as follows:

Meeting ID: 874 5212 4156 Passcode: 783249

For people joining with telephone: 1-301-715-8592

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452124156?pwd=RzI3dTI4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09>

Missional Approach Workshop

As part of our overall ministry and growth plan, we have adopted the Missional Approach as our philosophy to evangelism and church growth. The Missional Approach to evangelism and church growth is all about reclaiming the Great Commission and living out the Great Commandment.

Pastor Ben will be offering a workshop on the Missional Approach on Wednesday, **January 19th** from 7:00-9:00pm. This is free and open to members and visitors alike. All Consistory members and all Standing Committee Chairpersons are to attend this training at least every other year. The Zion UCC leadership will be joining in this workshop with us to learn more about this philosophy of ministry that we are using, and why we like this approach.

Pre-registration is encouraged so that you may receive the workshop materials in advance. Please contact the church office by Sunday, January 9th. Can't attend on this date? Please check with Pastor Ben to see what other date is possible.

Clearances Workshop

St. Paul's UCC is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all youth and volunteers who participate in ministries and activities sponsored by the church. Staff, teachers, and helpers in the church are required to have certain clearances on file. On Sunday, **January 23rd** after worship there will be a Clearances Workshop that will enable participants to begin the process of obtaining or renewing their clearances. Contact Pastor Ben or Elsa Wertz for more info.

Wanted: Clean, Used Plastic Grocery Bags

St. John's Hain's UCC is making blankets for homeless people by crocheting strips of plastic bags. If you do not already have a good place for your bags, please bring them to the stage in Miller Fellowship Hall and place them in the labeled green bin. If you would be interested in helping to make these blankets, please contact Pat Roberts at PatRoberts@stjhains.org.

Sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring altar flowers, the bulletin, or even the newsletter, in honor or memory of a loved one, or a special event in your life. A new Flower Chart has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, and up-to-date sponsor sheets have been placed on clipboards nearby. Detailed information may be found on the poster display by the clipboards.

Telephone Live Streaming & Playback Worship

This feature is offered to those who do not have internet access. You may call us at our toll free number **1-888-649-5770** and listen to the worship service live using a landline or cell phone. (No internet, smartphone, tablet, or computer is necessary - this works with a standard corded phone, cell phone, or even with a rotary phone). You also have the option for the church to automatically call you when the live stream worship begins (rather than you calling the church); which you can sign up for at the above toll free number, or you can call the church office, and we can add you to the call list. If you have any questions, difficulties, or issues, please let us know by calling the office at 610-621-5770. There is no charge to you for this service. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, please let them know of this feature.