



THE MESSENGER

OUR MISSION IS TO GROW IN FAITH, TO WORSHIP GOD, TO SERVE OTHERS, AND TO WELCOME ALL.



1

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 7

We remember our "saints" and loved ones in worship.



2

ROOTED IN LOVE -
LOVE FLOWS

November 14 is our Stewardship Sunday. Join us in supporting St. Paul's!



Thanksgiving Messy Church

NOVEMBER 14 AT 4 PM



5

THANKSGIVING
MESSY CHURCH

Join us for a Thank You themed Messy Church on November 14. Sign up [here!](#)



The tree of life bears much fruit when its roots reach deep to the water of life. This is the image the Bible offers us in Psalm 1: When we are deeply rooted by the river of life, we grow, blossom, and bear fruit. When we are rooted in love, we channel God's love to reach those who are thirsty, who are longing for the water of life to satisfy their parched souls. In the process of channeling love, we are being nurtured and transformed.

Love flows in and through all of St. Paul's ministries. It's a delight to see children and families explore faith in fun ways through our Messy Church program every second Sunday at 4 PM. It's heartwarming to see hungry people fed through our monthly Loaves and Fishes food outreach ministry. It's amazing to see our youngest ones experience God's love and learn about faith and values in Sunday school and Kids Group. Our worship services with marvelous music spread faith, hope, and love! Our faithful Card and Care ministry team reminds people that God is real and with them through the most challenging situations in their lives.

It is moving to me to witness firsthand how we change lives. Thank you

for your faithfulness and loving support. Rooted in love, we channel God's grace. Love flows through us!

During November we focus on love and how it touches our lives and how we channel it to others.

On All Saints Sunday, November 7, we remember in worship our loved ones whose lives and legacies made us who we are. Their love lives on in us and through us. We thank God for them and their exemplary love.

On Stewardship Sunday, November 14, we dedicate our hearts to God and join our fellow church leaders and partners in faith in making a commitment to love through our giving to St. Paul's mission and ministries.

On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21, we count blessings! There are so many! We never take life for granted. By thanking God, by being rooted in love and touched by God's love we become a blessing for others.

On November 28, we begin our Advent and Christmas season with the theme, "The Inn: Housing the Holy." Where and

how can we hold and carry the light of Christ in our hearts and spread it to others?

*Loving hearts are the gardens,
Loving thoughts are the roots,
Loving words are the flowers,
Loving deeds are the fruits.*

We are rooted in love. How does God's love flow through you?

Join us as we explore that together this November!

In faith, hope, and love,

Pastor Dietmar



Message from the Joyful Noise Choir



A very warm thank you to the special Joyful Noise “angels” in our congregation who contributed to our instrument fund. We have received two very beautiful instruments: a Sonor Primary soprano xylophone and alto metallophone. The choir members will benefit for years to come by being able to accompany themselves on these instruments and

growing in their musical independence and bravery! The congregation will benefit by getting to hear the beautiful new sounds these instruments will add to our church services! Thank you, Joyful Noise Angels!! Your generosity is so appreciated!

Julie Long, Joyful Noise Director



Sunday School

Sunday School is a great way for kids to build friendships while learning about God’s love. We started the year with the Creation Story, Noah’s Ark, and Abraham. We will continue the theme of God’s promises as we learn about Moses and the Israelites. Please encourage your child to join us and parents are always

welcome, too!

We are looking for volunteers to help. If you are interested, please contact Torri at youth@saintpauls-ucc.org. I do all the preparation and teaching - all you have to do is have fun with the kids!

Torri Stark, Youth Leader



Kids Group

All school-age kids are welcome to join us on Wednesdays where they can explore faith in a fun and safe environment. Each week focuses on a story from the Bible. So far, we have learned about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through fun activities and engaging videos.

even if you don’t have kids? We are looking for volunteers who are available at 3:00 on Wednesdays to help. If interested, please contact Torri at youth@saintpauls-ucc.org. I do all the preparation and teaching - all you have to do is have fun with the kids!

Want to be involved

Torri Stark, Youth Leader

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 11/01 Al Deans
Harry Derr
Kathy Straub
- 11/02 Scott Kershner
- 11/03 Richard Campbell
Owen Smith
- 11/05 Kelsey Williard
- 11/06 Carey Napp
- 11/07 Myia Brosius
- 11/09 Marty Blessing
Bill Burd
Brenda Hockenbrock
- 11/10 Melissa McCabe
Linda Thomas
Anna Mary Wetzell
- 11/15 Pat Bruno
- 11/16 Benjamin Hanes
- 11/17 Samantha Bernstein
Freya Probst
- 11/19 Ethan Kelly
Michael T. Zettlemyer (dad)
- 11/21 Ray Benner
Jackson Lybarger
- 11/22 Jody Sees
- 11/23 Mike Dressler
- 11/25 Linsley Gentile
Owen Spriggle
- 11/26 Stephen Groner
Charles Siegel
Angela Smith
- 11/29 Ann Aurand
- 11/30 Sharon McCuen

NOVEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11/06 James & Suzanne Radel
- 11/08 Kim & Bruce Burkhart
Wendy & Bill Mull
- 11/20 Dennis & Darlene Attig
- 11/23 Fred & Donnell Kelly
- 11/24 Denise & Roger Haddon
- 11/29 Malcolm Derk & Erin
Goedegebuure

PRAYER LIST

Members:

- Al & Dot Deans
- David Hannah
- Cheryl Reddinger

Friends:

- Jean Bamford
- Sue Belotti
- Francisco
- Carol Harrison
- Bonnie Klinger
- Alex Miller
- Corey Naugle
- Tunde Ogunnaike

All affected by Covid-19
 All who lost their jobs
 All who keep working in critical situations, especially the health care workers
 All who are grieving
 Those in leadership positions
 Our country - for peace, respect, understanding

Special prayers for all those who are serving in the military, leaders of the world, those who are working for peace and understanding, and all the children of the world.

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the phone calls, cards, and visits during my recovery from my stroke. Also, the prayer shawls were very thoughtful.

Bless all of you,
 Andy & Sharon Womer

Thank you for the sympathy cards and calls after the passing of my sister, Ina. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Mary Bolig

Caroline Kissinger would like to thank her prayer partner for the lovely floral arrangement sent on October 19th. What a nice "thinking of you day" for me. God is good. Thank you for this year of cards and flowers.

Dear members and friends of St. Paul's,

Sigrid and I are deeply touched and moved by your kindness and generosity expressed on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, October 10. Thank you for the very generous gift certificates, the special butterfly cake gift, the cookies, and many cards of appreciation. We received the gifts and affirmation as an expression of your love of God and your support and partnership in ministry. We are blessed to minister together with you!

Gratefully, Sigrid and Pastor Dietmar



Loaves and Fishes September

- L & F Sept 24
- Families, 49
- Children, 28
- Adults, 42
- Seniors, 49

Total served, 119

Join us for Messy Church on November 14 at 4 PM



Soap carving, creating your own rain stick, decorating a fall pumpkin, and more will all be part of our November 14 Messy Church. We invite you to join us in the fellowship hall for a fun afternoon as we explore giving thanks with the help of the story of the ten lepers. Ten were healed, but only one returned to Jesus to say thank you. At the end, instead of eating together, everybody will get to take home a special goodie bag. Spread the word and invite someone to come with you for an afternoon of faith and fun. Masks are required. Please help us prepare by signing up [here](#).

FUN AT OUR OCTOBER MESSY CHURCH



St. Paul's Council Meeting - October 12, 2021

Because of the timing of the newsletter publication, these newsletter minutes are not the official, approved minutes. After the minutes have been approved at the next meeting, the final minutes are available upon request.

In Attendance: Sara Adams, Marty Blessing, Susan Bolig, Amy Caron, Bob Engel, Courtney Hanes, Beverly Heinemann, Stacy Heinemann, Ivana Lluveras, Peggy Peeler, Pastor Dietmar Plajer, Sigrid Plajer, Shane Sanders, Linda Turner, Kathy Ulrich, Michael Zettlemoyer.

Excused: Jack Lewis, Rick Campbell.

Minutes: A motion was made by Marty Blessing and seconded by Bob Engel to approve the minutes from September 14th. The motion was approved.

Financial Report: Courtney Hanes reported, presenting the financial reports from September, which were sent to the council ahead of time. One note was that the proceeds from the Block Party were split between the children's choir and the REC center. Bob Engel motioned to accept the financial report as read, Peggy Peeler seconded, and the motion was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dietmar sent the report to the Council members ahead of time and started out with a reminder that we're still operating in a pandemic and in a hybrid model, and we're doing really well! A big thanks to everyone who made the block party such a success, as well as for the lovely Pastor Appreciation Sunday!

Unfinished Business & New Business:

- **Worship Service - Singing decision. Continue to follow CDC guidelines.** Snyder County is still in the "high" category, so we will continue to follow CDC guidelines that include masking indoors. We will continue as we have been until the local situation (transmission rates, etc.) improves.
- **Worship in person, via internet and by phone- How can we improve?** Sigrid shared that on average, it's about 5 people who are calling in and listening to the service on the phone. Some people call in later in the week and listen to the recording. Sigrid was able to program the lighting panel, so we don't need to replace it! They are still exploring options for the TVs.
- **Messy Church.** On Oct. 10th they had 12 volunteers and 13 attendees, so it wasn't as well attended as normal. Everyone was masked the entire time, but because there

weren't as many people, it didn't go as long. Everyone left with a goody bag. Hopefully, the November one will be better attended.

- **Adult Sunday School classes - Sunday AM w/Lois Bruno and Marty Blessing, Thursday Evening w/Raven Rudnitsky.** The first Thursday evening group was held last Thursday evening with Barb Lewis facilitating. It was a very thought-provoking evening.
- **Wednesday Kids Group & Sunday school.** Linda Turner reported. There haven't been a bunch of students on Wednesday or Sunday morning, 3-5 kids, but it's been great. We do need more volunteers for the programs - a volunteer doesn't need to volunteer all the time - once a month or every other month would be great!
- **Confirmation Group for the Fall:** Pastor Dietmar reported that there are 5 in the confirmation group and they are exploring the concept of the soul. On the 24th, they will be participating in the worship, sharing some of what they've been doing. A big thanks again to Linda and Torri for being mentors!
- **Kitchen Cupboard Emergency Food Pantry disbands.** Community Action Agency (CAA) is taking over because they offer the same service and will continue to do so. Funds left over will most likely be distributed to other local food ministries. Those who contributed to that ministry will be recognized and thanked for their involvement.
- **"Learning to Pray" Worship Series - Planning for the Fall Program Year:** Pastor Dietmar reported, thanking the Worship Committee for having everything set up (prayer cross, candles up front, prayer fence outside, prayer beads.
- **Stewardship Program.** Pastor Dietmar was very grateful for those who responded to his questions. Because we are in a good place financially, this will have more of a gratefulness campaign feel. We will need maybe one or two more speakers, as well as help with mailers.
- **New Council members for 2022, keep at 15 or go to 12?** A call was put out/into the eNews as well. No one has asked about being involved, so the Council started making a list of people and will ask people directly. We are looking for 4 new people. It was also proposed that people can commit to only one year and stay on longer if they want to. Marty proposed that we also offer to make sure that they know we can do hybrid meetings, so they would not have to go out in the evening.
- **Pastor Dietmar - Vacation days October 14, 17, 21.** Linda Turner motioned to approve the three requested days

off, Michael Zettlemoyer seconded, and the motion was approved. Darin Namminga will lead worship and provide sermon for October 17.

- **Green Team.** Shane reported on the completion of the sheds project. The “Living into Right Relations” committee needs potential members, so Shane will send out some feeler emails – the committee would focus on a variety of issues connected to social justice, moving creation justice (Green Team), as well as future “Hot Topics” under its umbrella. If anyone is interested in being a part of that committee, please reach out to Shane.
- **Personnel Committee.** All new hires now have their clearances on file, and they are in a shared Google Drive. It would be nice to have a list of people who already have state clearances on file, just in case we need someone a lit-

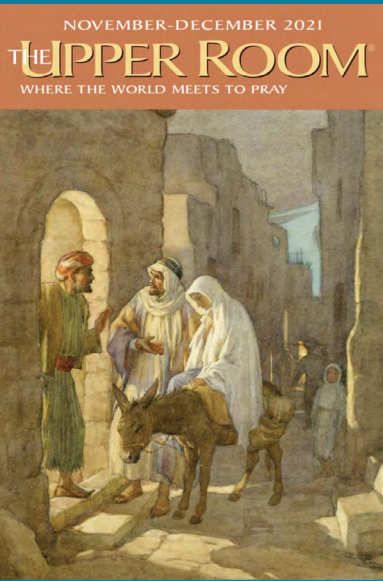
tle last minute. Ivana was approached about being the 2nd permanent nursery attendant but is not able to commit to that as she is starting a new job.

- **Property and Grounds Committee.** Rick Campbell reported. All roof work is finished, the basement island faucet needs to be replaced, and the bridal shop needs to have some of the exterior wood trim painted. No change to concrete work, window replacement, or boiler replacement.

Next council Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 @ 7pm.

Marty Blessing will provide devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Sanders, Council Secretary



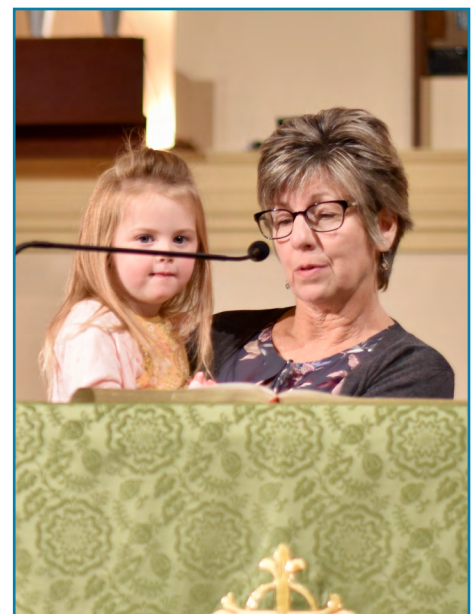
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021
THE UPPER ROOM
WHERE THE WORLD MEETS TO PRAY

UPPER ROOM NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER

You can pick up the November-December Upper Room devotional at the church, Tuesday to Thursday, 9-2, right inside the Mill St. door. If you cannot pick up your copy, please call the church office at 570-374-8749.



We are taking orders for RED poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas holiday. Honor or remember a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia in their name. Plants may be ordered [online](#) by **Sunday, November 21.**



Pastor's Report - September 2021

Our St. Paul's Mission is to grow in faith, to worship God, to serve others, and to welcome all.

The Worship Team has been terrific in planning for our new worship series about "Learning to Pray." The purpose of this series is to help us explore why we pray and how to pray and to practice personal and communal prayer. The worship team is planning four ways to make this series meaningful and engaging for the friends and members of St. Paul's: A candle installation on the communion table (altar) for people to light candles during the service, a prayer cross for people to attach their personal prayers to in the back of the sanctuary, an outside prayer ribbon installation for the community to join us in this season of prayer, and prayer beads with individual beads reflecting the theme for each Sunday beginning with Back to Church Sunday, Sept. 12. I am grateful to all on the worship team for creating engaging, meaningful, and moving worship services.

A Picnic and Pool Party for all friends and members of St. Paul's was held at the Rudnitsky residence in the afternoon of August 8. It was a delight to see so many join us for a time of fun, food, and fellowship, reconnecting with each other in person after a long pandemic season. It feels great to be together in person. I am very grateful to the Rudnitsky family for hosting this event and for all who

made it a great experience.

The Christian Education and Music Teams have been planning for our "Back to Church" fall season with Sunday school for children and adults, Kids Group, Senior Choir, and Joyful Noise Choir to resume their ministries. These teams together with the Personnel Committee interviewed Torri Stark and hired her as new Youth Leader. Torri Stark is amazing, trained as a teacher with 8+ years of experience as director in children and youth ministry at her previous church. I am excited to have her as new Youth Leader serving at St. Paul's. I am planning for teaching a Confirmation Class this fall through June 2022. The Music Committee interviewed Julie Long and Adam Dietz and Council hired them as Joyful Noise Choir Director and Senior Choir Accompanist respectively. We have excellent new staff at St. Paul's for which I am very grateful.

We continue to live, worship, and serve as hybrid church as the Covid pandemic persists. It's challenging to keep the right balance in between being as safe as possible and not allowing Covid to take over our lives. We continue to follow CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of Covid and simultaneously face our fears and concerns in faith. In and through all these challenges we trust, do our best, and know that God is good, that God provides and guides, and that God will see us through.

I officiated at Marti Bowen's interment service on her birthday, August 4. It became a beautiful and meaningful celebration of her life and legacy of love and caring. We keep surrounding husband Bill Bowen with prayers and love. Also, we gave thanks for the life and love of Becky Moll, the sister of Brenda Campbell and daughter of Ruth Hermann, on August 7. It was a meaningful celebration of her life and legacy as many family members and friends met outdoors to share memories in gratitude for Becky Moll.

I am grateful to Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin and Rev. Sally Dries for leading our worship services on Aug. 22 and 29 as I was on vacation. Rev. Amelia Price was available for pastoral care emergencies.

Thank you for your prayers, your witness, your giving, your service, and your faithfulness to God and to God's work through St. Paul's. You are the hands and heart of Jesus in action!

August 1-31, 2021

Days worked	13
Days off	04
Continuing Education	00
Vacation days	14
Holidays	00
Total Days	31

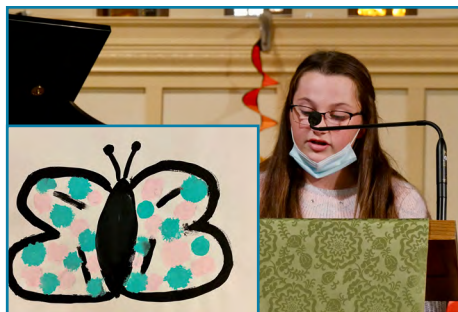
Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Dietmar Plajer



OUR CONFIRMANDS AND THEIR MENTORS SHARING IN WORSHIP:



Jane Berger: I painted a road with trees. I feel calmness and peace; also power and freedom. When I am riding my bike, I feel free. "God restores my soul!"



Danika Burd: I painted a butterfly. When I see the butterfly, I feel calm and free. This makes me think of soul; because my soul is calm and free! "Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength!"



Katie Proger: I painted a flower. When I see it, I feel a sense of happiness. My flower represents the good that God puts into the world. "You can gain the whole world but lose your soul."



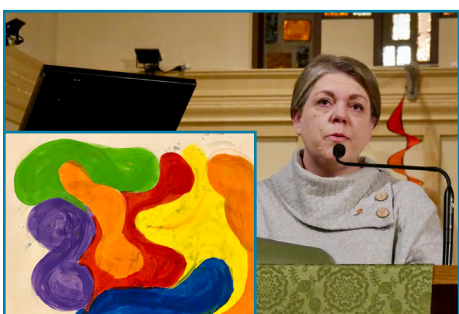
Amelia Gentile: I painted a house on the cliff. When I see this picture, I feel happy. When I am at home, I feel happy!



Jack Stark: I painted a tree. When I see this tree, I feel peace and comfort. Jesus says, "You can gain the whole world, but lose your soul." This means to me, being obsessed with power can make you forget who you really are.



Linda Turner: I painted a beach scene. There I feel peace, calm, relaxed, and free. In faith we find peace and that God is always here, just as the waves continue to wash to shore.



Torri Stark: I painted an abstract. It makes me feel free. The colors of the rainbow in the picture remind me of all of God's promises to us. "God restores my soul!"



Lori Proger: I painted little flowers, a butterfly and the sun. I love to be out in my garden. It brings me happiness and warmth and shows me hope and promise. "It is well with my soul!"



Pastor Dietmar: I painted a spiral. It leads us back to the center, to our soul, and then again out into life. "God restores my soul!"



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

400 North Market Street, Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Tel 570-374-8749

office@saintpauls-ucc.org

www.saintpauls-ucc.org

Summer worship Sunday at 10:00 AM
either on Facebook or our website

“God is Still Speaking”

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...



Honoring and thanking the members of the Kitchen Committee, Kitchen Cupboard, and Mixed Adult Class.