



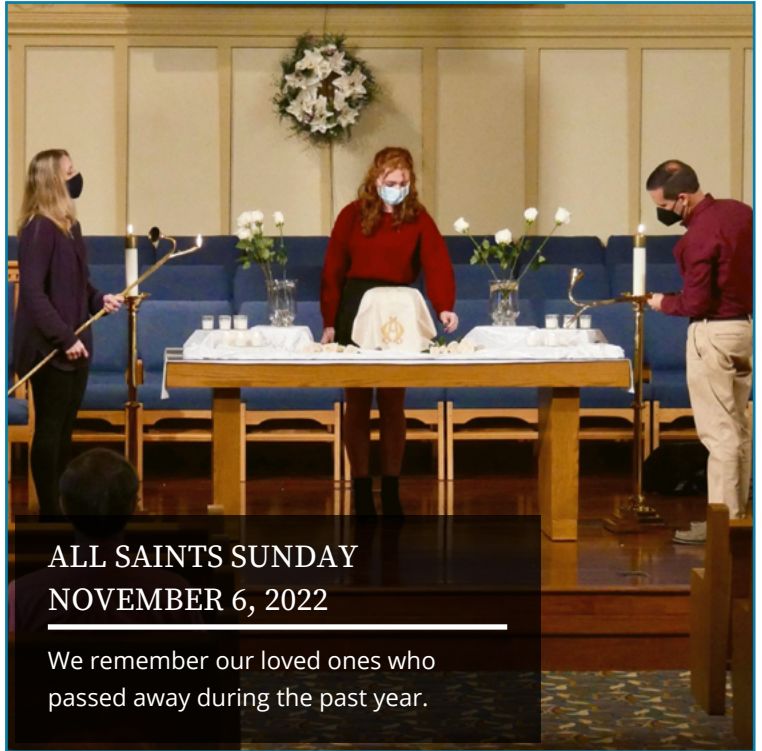
THE MESSENGER

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



KIDS NIGHT OUT

NOVEMBER 5 FROM 5:30 - 7:30 PM



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2022

We remember our loved ones who passed away during the past year.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 13, 2022

Join us as we love through giving in support of St. Paul's mission.

Messy Church NOVEMBER 13 AT 4 PM

A Thanksgiving Feast



♥ IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

What are you grateful for? When we share around the Thanksgiving table, family and friends always come first. When we keep sharing, we continue with visible and tangible things: home, food (especially mashed potatoes and apple pie), clothes, heat, games, etc. In a third round, we share on what you cannot see: love, joy, hope, faith, God, and life itself. Life in its various dimensions, the ability to count blessings and express gratitude. Life itself is a gift. It's precious. It's wow!

What makes life worth living? Love! It's what feeds our souls. It's what nurtures our spirits. It's what makes us come alive and gives us purpose. Love makes life worth living. What is love? Love is energy. Love is a precious gift. Love flows. Love is always moving; never static. As I'm going deeper to explore what love is, I am tearing up, because it is so precious, a treasure, the best of all.

How do you love? You share it. You express it. You give it away. Actually, that is the only way you can love. You love when you share it with others. You love through doing. Love comes into its own through giving. Think of who loved you and who loves you. How do you know that your mom loved you? She hugged you, placed

a treat in your lunch box, cooked your favorite food, made a special birthday cake for you, helped you with your homework, comforted you when you bruised your knee and your ego. Love is not love if it's not shared. Love is a verb. Love becomes real by what you do.

This November, I invite and challenge you to love with all your heart. On All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6, we express the love we received from our own saints. We will remember in worship our loved ones who died during the last year. But All Saints is about so much more. We express gratitude for those persons in our lives who made us who we are, parents, friends, teachers, coaches, siblings, mentors, work colleagues, etc. These people loved through actions. They lifted us up. They encouraged us, "You can do it!" They cheered us on. They delight in us.

On "Love Sunday," our Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 13, we express our love for God, for our beloved St. Paul's and what it stands for and accomplishes, with our tangible gifts. We love by giving - for loving is giving. Your love and giving makes St. Paul's what it is, the place where love grows.

On Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 20, we will create in worship a Thanksgiving tree. You will write what you are grateful for, how you feel loved. We will attach the little colorful notes to a tree of love and gratitude visible to all, whether you join us in person or electronically.

Messy Church, always on the second Sunday of the month (November 13) at 4 PM, will focus on Thanksgiving, and at Kids Night Out (notice the changed date to November 5, 5:30-7:30 PM) children will explore a new aspect of love. The best thing is, the parents get two children-free hours to love each other - time for themselves.

I invite you to join me in making November a month of love and thanksgiving. Thank you for your love and tangible support for our beloved St. Paul's and for our mission and ministries. Love is what we are about. In all aspects. Let us love extravagantly this November.

In faith, hope, and love,

Pastor Dietmar

NEWS FROM TORRI STARK, OUR YOUTH LEADER



KIDS NIGHT OUT

Attention! Kids Night Out is moving to the FIRST Saturday of the month starting in November! We will learn about God's plan for Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, have a kid-friendly meal, play some fun games, and make ornaments for the library's Tree Fest tree. Please sign up your child(ren) [here](#) so they can join us on November 5th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have been learning about individuals in the Old Testament and how their faith in God helped them during difficult times. By listening to God, Noah saved creation, Deborah & Esther saved their people, and Samuel taught us how to talk to and listen for God. A snack, a fun video, and a craft or game makes the meaningful message more fun!



TEEN GROUP

Teen Group is off to a great start! We've been tackling tough questions about the validity and purpose of the Bible and are planning a field trip in December. Look for more information about upcoming meetings and events on the website or contact Torri Stark at youth@saintpauls-ucc.org. We encourage all teenagers to join us and bring a friend!

NOVEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 11/01 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 Wetzel
- 11/13 Marie Dignam
- 11/15 Pat Bruno
- 11/16 Benjamin Hanes
- 11/17 Samantha Bernstein
Freya Probst
- 11/19 Ethan Kelly
Michael T. Zettlemoyer
- 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



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

Trinity Andrade & Family
Bruce Burkhart
Charlie & Nancy Gale
Cheryl Gibson-Doyne
The Family of Eli Espinosa
David & Helen Hannah
Malysa Lenig
Kathie Mehlenbacher
Lee Ann Pupo
Brigitte and Kurt Schwarz
Buddy and Lela Strawser
Mary Ann Weader

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
Those who are dear and close to our hearts and those not named above
The people of Ukraine and Russia and all those suffering from the raging war



THANK YOU NOTE

Thanks to our St. Paul's UCC family for all their prayers and cards during Jack's recovery after 2 surgeries and months of healing. He was in and out of hospital

many times but the prayers were answered and we are feeling blessed as he recuperates!

God Bless,
Jack, Jan & Kim Riegel





Sign up for Messy Church November 13 at 4 PM

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever"* -Psalm
107:1

Our theme for November's Messy Church is Giving Thanks. Sign up for an afternoon filled with fun and thankfulness. We will decorate mini pumpkins, try our hand at potato stamping, build a home with cranberries and toothpicks, create animals out of dried leaves, make apple pie cups, and more.

We will start with crafts and games, have a story time in the sanctuary around 5:15, and will share in a family style meal around 5:30. By 6 PM we will leave with a happy heart, having been nurtured in body, spirit, mind, and soul. Invite a friend to join us. Please sign up [here](#).



ST. PAUL'S COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2022

In Attendance: Pastor Dietmar Plajer, Peggy Peeler, Sara Adams, Sigrid Plajer as guest, Allen Wetzell, Josh Wenrich, Randy Tanner, Linda Turner, Bob Engel, Amy Caron, Kim Burkhart.

Excused: Michael Zettlemyer, Bev Heinemann, Kathy Ulrich, Shane Sanders.

Minutes of August Meeting: A motion was made by Bob Engel, seconded by Randy Tanner, and approved by Council to accept the minutes as submitted.

Financial Report: The Financial Report was reviewed by Linda Turner. Of note was an initial payment of \$8,827.87 from dedicated funds for the laser projectors. A large expense in September was our final insurance (flood and building/property) payment for the year of \$13,410.50. We experienced a loss of \$14,084.31 for the month. A motion was made by Kim Burkhart, seconded by Sara Adams, and approved by Council, to accept the Financial Report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dietmar recognized everyone for the reception on Kick-Off Sunday, the Rainbow Chair Project, the PFLAG booth at the Market Street Festival, and the great church picnic and Messy Church in September. Pastor Dietmar announced that Sigrid's mother is in the hospital in Germany and, depending on her health, they may have to travel with short notice to Germany.

Worship Service: Volunteers are needed for the tech booth on Sundays. Back-to-normal Communion in October went well and we will continue with hybrid Communion; however, gluten-free bread will be included moving forward. The Worship Committee will be tasked with exploring ways to do Communion (i.e., everyone going to the front, teenagers/youth assisting with serving, etc.). Communion servers, unless otherwise decided, for November will be the Class of 2023 and in December the Class of 2024.

Christmas Day Service: Christmas is on a Sunday this year. A motion was made by Kim Burkhart, seconded by Linda Turner, and approved by Council not to have an in-person service. Pastor Dietmar will pre-record a short service for December 25th.

Messy Church: Forty-two people attended the October 9th Messy Church event and it was very well received. Craft projects were fun, the sheep and goat game was exciting, and the food was great. Next Messy Church is November 13th.

Group Study: Due to lack of participation, the Monday evening

study group "Practice Your Faith" based on "Naked Spirituality" by Brian McLaren has been canceled.

PFLAG: The first meeting was held in September with 10 attendees (6 in person and 4 on-line). Many people gave the thumbs up as they passed the booth at the Market Street Festival, and comments received were positive.

Treasurer: Darin Namminga turned down the Treasurer position and we are again accepting applications for the position. The position will be placed on Facebook by Sigrid Plajer.

Kids Night Out: The first KNO was held in September and was enjoyed by both kids who attended and by parents who had a night out. The next KNO is October 15th.

Habitat for Humanity: Eight people helped out at a Habitat for Humanity event in Sunbury, doing yard clean-up, tearing up old floors, using power tools, and having a great time. Randy Tanner reported that the organization would welcome our participation at future events.

Church Safety Plan: Linda Turner sent a draft of the Plan to all Council members prior to the meeting. She asked that everyone provide feedback and also for input on information still needed as noted in the document.

Adult Sunday School: The focus of Adult Sunday School is Mature Faith and it is going well, with some minor technical issues to be resolved.

Central Association UCC 60th Anniversary Celebration: Randy Tanner attended and reported that the message he took away from the event was that as a church we need to ask ourselves the question, "If the church closed its doors, what would our community miss?"

Financial Other: The order for the video upgrade for the sanctuary has been signed and a down payment sent. We do not have a confirmed start date for installation.

Stewardship: Stewardship Sunday is November 13th. Pastor Dietmar distributed copies of a booklet "On Giving" and asked Council and Finance committee members to read and provide feedback on what was meaningful. Several people responded. Discussion centered around why we give to St. Paul's, the mission of the church, and a suggestion that Council pledge first.

Pastor Vacation Days: Pastor Dietmar requested October 25-28 as vacation days. A motion was made by Randy Tanner, seconded by Josh Wenrich, and approved by Council, to approve the vacation.

Property & Grounds, Other: No updates on open items as the committee has not met recently. Volunteers are needed to help insulate the foyer ceiling on Saturday, October 22nd beginning at 8 a.m. In addition to Rick Campbell, we will need 5 people. Pastor Dietmar will send out a request and also put it in the weekly eNews.

Council Members: In January 2023, we will need 6 new Council members – one is a 2-year term and five are 3-year terms. Possible candidates were discussed and recruitment will start immediately.

Personnel: Two additional Kids Night Out/Nursery Attendants have been hired, for a total of three helpers.

Pastor Dietmar and Sigrid Plajer, guest, left the meeting prior to the following discussion.

Office Furniture: Sigrid Plajer spends a great deal of time in the office and also works from home. When in the office, she uses a small work table which is inadequate for the work she does.

Using her personal credit card, she purchased \$1,300 worth of office furniture and is asking for reimbursement. The Finance Committee is recommending reimbursement. A motion was made by Randy Tanner, seconded by Sara Adams, and approved by Council to reimburse Sigrid for the cost of the furniture.

Messy Church Coordinator: Christian Education and the Finance Committee are recommending a new position, Messy Church Coordinator, as a paid position. The job description was sent to Council for review prior to the meeting. The position would pay \$3,182 per year, would be a 10 month position, and paid out over 12 months. A motion was made by Sara Adams, seconded by Josh Wenrich, and approved by Council to approve this as a paid position. Sigrid Plajer has been performing the duties of this position, unpaid, for several years. A motion was made by Sara Adams, seconded by Randy Tanner, and approved by Council to offer the position to Sigrid.

Next Council Meeting: November 8, 2022 - in person and Zoom.

Devotions for next Meeting: Linda Turner
The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Turner, Council Secretary



The month of October is recognized as Pastor Appreciation Month, and so as we reach the end of October and on behalf of the St. Paul's Church Council, I would like to encourage all of us to take some time to express our deep appreciation to Pastor Dietmar for all of the ways he serves and supports us. We are so blessed to have Pastor Dietmar, with his wife Sigrid at his side, as our spiritual leader. In addition to the critical work he does on a daily basis to serve St. Paul's, Pastor Dietmar

actively connects us with the local community and fosters the ministries that allow us to truly Be the Church. He lovingly supports us collectively and individually as we face major life moments and, through it all, he is relentlessly positive, serving as a beacon of hope that helps us move forward together. So, as we thank God for the blessing he has given us in Pastor Dietmar, we also ask God to bless Pastor Dietmar and his family, to provide him with encouragement, strength, insight, and motivation so that he can continue to serve St. Paul's and help our congregation do the good work God has called us to do.

You are invited to bring a note or card expressing your appreciation to Pastor Diemar to the morning service on Sunday, October 30. We will have some light refreshments immediately following the service, with a chance to personally say thank you to Pastor Dietmar and Sigrid for all that they do for St. Paul's!

Peggy Peeler, Council President

PASTOR'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2022

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

I am moved by the heartfelt welcome back from my sabbatical which you expressed in and after the worship service on our Kickoff Sunday, Sept. 11. The many thank you notes, the wonderful reception, and your smiles warmed my heart. I am deeply grateful for the sabbatical time of renewal and to Rev. Darin Namminga for filling in for the three summer months during my absence. I reported about my sabbatical experiences on page 2 of the Sept. 2022 newsletter.

We kicked off the program year with a new worship series, "Practice Your Faith: 12 Simple Steps to God." The Worship Team, with Carolyn Fairl's leadership, helps make the theme tangible. You notice the spiral artwork and decorations that capture attention and imagination. The Senior Choir excels, and the various musical contributions are heartwarming. I am grateful to all who provide children's messages, function as lectors, greeters, and acolytes.

The Rainbow Chair Installation on our front lawn demonstrates our extravagant welcome and inclusion of all of God's people. I've heard from many people from the community how important our LGBTQ+ inclusive and affirming message is. Jesus loves all and so do we. The Daily Item presented the message to the community. Thanks to Shane Sanders for spearheading the project and for all who supported her in bringing it to fruition. In September we kicked off a hybrid PFLAG support group for Snyder County in Selinsgrove and participated in a PFLAG stand at the Market Street Festival.

The Picnic with Messy Church at the East Snyder Park on Sept. 18 was a great success with 72 persons participating. Children, youths, and adults had a blast with the crafts and games. Some highlights were tie-dye T-shirts, paint pouring, animal-ice-chopping, sand art, coke and mentos experiment, and giant bubbles. I'm grateful to all who contributed to the picnic, especially those who donated hotdogs and ice cream. Messy Church is a key ministry of St. Paul's that attracts new people to our congregation.

I invested a significant amount of time and energy in pastoral care and our congregational caring ministry. On a regular basis we have people from St. Paul's and from our community facing life-changing challenges. I am deeply grateful to all who participate in our Card and Care ministry. Their love, prayers, and care assure people that they are not forgotten, and that God is with them in and through their challenges.

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!

September 6-30, 2022

Days worked	19.5
Days off	04.5
Continuing Education	01
Vacation days	00
Holidays	00
Total Days	25

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Dietmar Plajer

We ask you, the members of St. Paul's to volunteer to serve on Church Council and/or submit names of people who might be good to serve on Church Council to the church office by November 8. Thank you!





WOULD YOU LIKE TO RING SOME BELLS THIS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON?

We are almost there! We need one more ringer in order to be able to form a handbell ensemble. We are planning to begin rehearsals Wednesday, November 2, at 5:45 PM if we can make it happen. [Email me](#) if you're interested and if you know of anybody else who would like to join us for a bell ensemble this fall, and we will finalize the plans to get the handbell ensemble started. Marie Dignam, our new Joyful Noise choir director is willing to direct us.

Thank you!

— Sigrid



Thank you to the volunteers who worked at the Habitat for Humanity Work Day in Sunbury on Saturday, October 8, and those who helped with the Insulation Project on Saturday, October 22.



THE PARABLE OF THE FRENCH FRY

A few years ago, I took my then nine-year-old son to McDonalds for a snack of french fries. As we sat down, I did what all fathers do after buying french fries for their kid: I reached over to take one and got my hand slapped. "Dad!" my son snipped. "Those are mine!"

I said "Oh really? Who drove you here? Who placed the order and forked over the cash? I bought you those fries so technically they belong to me." My son begrudgingly handed over a few measly little ones he didn't want anyway.

We all fall into the trap of giving God our leftovers. After we pay for everything else — mortgage, utilities, food, transportation, insurance, cable, internet, cellphone, gym, kids' sports and activities, vacation, college fund, investments, debt, taxes,

frivolities — then, maybe, we give God from whatever is left.

Faithful stewardship reverses that. Plan your giving to the church and other places you care about first, and structure the rest of your life around that.

God deserves more than leftovers.

Matt Laney (2020). The Parable of the French Fry. *On Giving | Reflections & Resources for Pre-Generous Parishioners*





St. Paul's United Church of Christ

400 North Market Street, Selinsgrove, PA 17870

Tel 570-374-8749

office@saintpauls-ucc.org

saintpauls-ucc.org

Worship Sunday at 10:30 AM

also on Facebook, YouTube, and our website

"God is Still Speaking"

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...



Our children are growing in faith, nurtured and taught by Youth Leader, Torri Stark, and Joyful Noise Director, Marie Dignam