



THE MESSENGER

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

Learning to Pray

NEW WORSHIP SERIES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



New worship time 10:30 beginning September 12



ST. PAUL'S UCC
EVERYONE WELCOME



BLOCK PARTY & MESSY CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 12, 3 - 6 PM



FAITH IN THE MIDST OF FEAR

Why We Pray and Why We Go to Church

It's human to worry. We have many reasons to be concerned. The Delta Covid variant and its impact on us. Our children and grandchildren in school and at college. Are they safe enough? How about our seniors and those with underlying conditions? Will they be protected from breakthrough infections? On a wider scale you may be concerned about the political situation in our country and beyond. The forest fires, hurricanes, and the flooding. There are ample reasons to be concerned.

But worry, fear, and anxiety are only part of reality. Beyond our getting worked up, feeling anxious and overwhelmed, there is a different reality of being rooted, grounded, in touch with the unchanging ground of our being. When we get caught up in our feelings, we forget to trust, let go and let God. This is where prayer and faith come in.

It is with us like with the ocean. On the surface the wind and waves can rattle your boat, make you feel like sinking and drowning. But when you go deeper, the ocean is always peaceful, quiet, and steady. That's how it is with our faith. When we go deeper, we connect with the peaceful presence of God.

Faith is about re-connecting with that

deeper reality, with being grounded in God in the midst of the worries and in the storm. Faith is not the absence of fear but trusting in and through the worries that we are not on our own, that we have someone to talk to and to walk with us in and through the storm.

Faith is about trusting that we are held like a child, that no matter what, the parent will keep you safe and close to their heart. Faith is about knowing deep in your heart that nothing can separate you from the love of God. Nothing!

That is what prayer and church are about. In prayer we face both, our worries, anxiety, and fears AND the unchanging presence of God. In prayer, we surrender to the grace of God knowing that we can trust in the midst of our personal storms. Prayer is dealing very honestly with these realities - and at times wrestling with them - fear and faith, anxiety and trust, concerns and courage.

Church is about taking our anxiety and angst seriously, naming our feelings and talking about them honestly, but also, to approach our unsettling feelings with faith, trust, and confidence that we will be okay, that we are with God in good hands.

I ask you to make church a priority this fall. I ask you to return to church in person or online beginning with our Back to Church Sunday, September 12, at 10:30 AM, our Block Party with Messy Church on the same Sunday afternoon at 3 PM. Children's Sunday school, Kids Group, Confirmation Group, music programs - they all matter as they help us grow in faith. We will do everything we can to keep you and your children as safe as possible.

It matters what you do. You set the tone and the trend. Your participating shows others that faith matters and that we can face our fears, worries, and anxieties in faith together.

I hope to see you on our Back to Church Sunday in person or online. And I hope you will make a renewed commitment for yourself and for your children and families to grow in faith.

All my best,

Pastor Dietmar

P.S. You can always reach Pastor Dietmar by emailing dietmar@saint-pauls-ucc.org or by calling or texting (570) 541-0121.

YOUTH MINISTRY



**OUR NEW YOUTH LEADER
TORRI STARK**

My name is Torri Stark, and I am very excited to be the new Youth Leader here at St. Paul's United Church of Christ. My husband, Craig, and our two children joined St. Paul's in the fall of 2019. I taught high school English for 15 years and now work in the Registrar's Office at Susquehanna University. At our previous church, I was the Church School Director for 9 years, helped with confirmation class, and directed the annual youth Christmas pageant. Teaching and mentoring youth has always been an important and rewarding part of my life, and I look forward to sharing the stories of God's love with the children of St. Paul's and our community, mentoring the confirmands, and re-establishing an active youth group.



**OUR NEW JOYFUL NOISE
CHOIR DIRECTOR
JULIE LONG**

Hello! My name is Julie Long and I will be directing the Joyful Noise Choir this year. Several years back, when my own children were involved, I directed the Saint Paul's Cherub Choir. I am so happy to return to Saint Paul's this year and get involved again. I received my undergraduate degree in music education from Syracuse University and have taught public school general music and directed church children's choirs. I am looking forward to working with the young musicians of Saint Paul's this year!



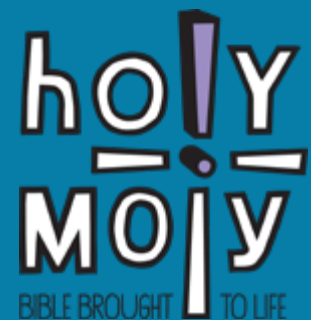
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will begin on September 12 during church. This year's curriculum is called Spark: Activate Faith. It is a Bible-based Sunday school program designed for all kids together in one classroom. The fall lessons focus on the Old Testament and include a family activity sheet to take home for each lesson.



JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR

Joyful Noise Choir meetings will begin on Sunday, Sept. 5, at 9:15 AM. We will meet in the sanctuary to play instruments and sing and will share our music-making with the congregation every third Sunday. As director, I will be masking to protect our young musicians. I hope your children will join us for some spread-out music-making!



KIDS GROUP IS BACK!

Holy Moly - Kids Group is back starting Wednesday, September 15! The Holy Moly program brings the Bible to life and engages kids through imagination with a focus on hands-on learning.



SEPTEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 9/01 Tom Dahlmann
Jason Taylor
- 9/02 Matt Burd
- 9/03 Dolores Bressler
Mary Dahlmann
- 9/04 John Fischer
- 9/06 Melissa Laniewski
- 9/07 Jamie Gentile
- 9/09 Joe Cabe
- 9/11 Daisy Thomas
Wyatt Smith
- 9/13 Beth Derr
Kathleen Gunning
Jack Stark
- 9/15 Jodi Cope
- 9/16 James Cope
Beth Deckard
Dick Marshall
Sophia Namminga
- 9/17 Abigail Wolfe
- 9/18 Brian Witkop
- 9/19 Daniel Brouse
Theo Feiler
Stella Gentile
- 9/20 Hailey Bingaman
Eve Caron
Olivia Lybarger
Shane Spriggle
- 9/21 Barry Siegfried
Joshua Wenrich
- 9/22 Roger S. Haddon, Jr.
- 9/23 Derek Wolfe
- 9/24 Tami Long
Anthony Martello
- 9/26 Ashley Minier
Steven Sees
Bruce Witkop
- 9/27 Rick Hawk
William Hockenbrock
- 9/28 Jevan Beaver
- 9/29 Bill Mull

PRAYER LIST

Members:

- Al & Dot Deans
- Chyrl Gemberling
- Helen Hannah
- Gibby Mease
- Andy Womer

Friends:

- Mahlon Boop
- Myrletta Kline
- The family of Doris Miller
- Asher Noll
- Linda Sluck
- Lorelli Ziegler & her family

All people of Afghanistan, Haiti, and those affected by Hurricane Ida
 All affected by Covid-19
 All who keep working in critical situations, especially the health care workers
 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.



You can pick up the September-October 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.

THANK YOU

Pastor Dietmar & St. Paul's Family,

Thank you for the graduation gifts! It meant so much!

Thank you for thinking of me!

Megan Campbell

Dear St. Paul's and Pastor Dietmar,

Thank you for the generous message about my High School graduation! I will be attending Alvernia University and majoring in occupational therapy.

From,
Noah

SEPTEMBER



ANNIVERSARIES

- 9/02 Wilbur & Cheryl Reddinger
Randy & Tracey Wolfe
- 9/03 Sara Adams & Morgan Lewis, Jr.
- 9/04 Tom & Mary Dahlmann
- 9/05 Randy & Melissa Laniewski
- 9/06 Lyle & Nancy Mercer
- 9/10 Beth & Harry Derr
- 9/12 Jenelle & Ben Moyer
Charles "Charlie" & Jane Ruhl
- 9/14 Brian & Laurie Derr
Matthew & Melisa Kelly
- 9/16 Jevan & Christine Beaver
Brian & Amy Caron
- 9/18 Justin & Betsy Womer
- 9/20 Carey & Jeremy Napp
- 9/22 Michael & Ann Aurand
- 9/24 Scott & Jennifer Bernstein
Rev. John "Jack" & Patricia "Pat" Snook
- 9/25 Max & Pam Gemberling
- 9/27 Keith & Sue Minier

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous gift to Snyder County Children and Youth Service's Back to School Fair. Whether your donation was monetary or tangible it had a great impact. We were thrilled to have your support.

Through your donations to the Children's Fund of Snyder County Coalition 4 Kids we were able to help more than 140 children feel more prepared for the upcoming school year. We are certain that your help in this effort goes a long way in making a big difference especially after the impact of last school year.

This year's giving was phenomenal and we truly appreciate the kindness shown to those children we served.

We are currently packing up many of the remaining items to take to every public school in the district. This way, any children who are still in need can receive those supplies at school.

Thanks again for making a huge difference!

Sincerely,
The staff at Snyder County Children & Youth Services

To All Members of St. Paul's:

I would like to thank everyone for all the wonderful cards and phone calls when I had my recent cornea transplant. Also, the delicious soup, bread and blueberry muffins from my prayer partner were much appreciated. It is great to have such a caring church family.

Thanks again!!
Jack Lewis

The Kitchen Cupboard, the emergency food pantry located here at St. Paul's will discontinue its services immediately. Through the pandemic, the Area Community Action Agency took on the distribution of food for people who face emergencies, like in the cases of a job loss, a house fire, an accident, or the like. Thank you for all your contributions in food items and in monetary donations through the years. Because of your kindness and generosity, many people have been helped.

A special thank you goes to Ann Leitzel, Pam Wildt, and Nancy Wagner for their faithful service as coordinators and distributors through the last years. Ann and Pam have been faithful in sharing their time and talents with heart and soul.

On behalf of all those who were helped, a great Thank you!
Pastor Dietmar

I, who am never at a loss for words, am at a loss for words. At least I am at a loss for the adequate words to use to thank my Angels for the wonderful gift of safe transportation. No one imagines that they will find themselves in a less than desirable position after years of planning for another ending. When it happens, it is devastating. But I am so blessed to have such wonderful friends, and in the end, that is the legacy one wants to leave.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Joanne Lauer

Thank you to the church and especially the volunteers who helped to make our mother's (Mary Anne Britton) memorial ceremony such a life affirming event.

Sincerely, The Britton Family

Thank you to the Kitchen Committee

For many, many years, the Kitchen Committee of St. Paul's has been very active in serving banquets, dinners, public turkey suppers, and the like. All proceeds of the Kitchen Committee did directly benefit St. Paul's and its many ministries. Recently we as a congregation received a generous donation from the Kitchen Committee, their final monetary contribution as they closed their account, in the amount of \$1,542.07. On behalf of St. Paul's, our Church Council, and personally, I thank the Kitchen Committee and all who participated in its work and service. St. Paul's would not be what it is without you and your faithful ministry!

Gratefully, Pastor Dietmar

P.S. We will publicly express our gratitude to the Kitchen Committee during one of the upcoming worship services this fall.



St. Paul's Council Meeting - August 10, 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, Rick Campbell, Amy Caron, Bob Engel, Beverly Heinemann, Stacy Heinemann, Jack Lewis, Ivana Lluveras, Pastor Dietmar Plajer, Sigrid Plajer, Shane Sanders, Linda Turner, Michael Zettlemyer.

Excused: Susan Bolig, Kathy Ulrich, Peggy Peeler.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jack Lewis and seconded by Bob Engel to approve the minutes from July 13th. The motion was approved.

Financial Report: Courtney Hanes reported; she is our new treasurer and starting in August, she will start reporting to Council. Bob Engel motioned to accept the financial report as read, Beverly Heinemann seconded, and the motion was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dietmar sent the report to the Council members ahead of time.

Unfinished Business & New Business:

- **Worship Service-Singing decision.** Continue to follow CDC guidelines. Snyder County is still in the "moderate" category, so we will continue to follow CDC guidelines.
- **Worship in person, via internet and by phone- How can we improve?** Things are still going well as a hybrid of both in-person and online, as well as on the phone (there are generally 5 unique callers on the phone). We have some people who have started learning the audio/video system, so that's going well even as they are learning. They are always welcome to have more volunteers who want to learn! The TV in the foyer now has a system installed that will have the TV with a changing slide show and will turn itself on and off. Microphones will be swapped out soon as well. Another special project: something that would replace the prayer cards: "connect card" where people can connect to the church in various ways (visitors, prayer requests, comments, etc.).
- **"Learning to Pray" Worship Series - Planning for the Fall Program Year:** Pastor Dietmar encouraged us to think about how we might be able to share during the series: What devotional do you use? When and how do you pray? What is one of your favorite prayers or scripture readings? Why? How do you care for yourself? Who is willing to share for 3-5 minutes in worship about their joy, wrestling, ex-

periences with praying? Speaking about "dry times," about not knowing, of feeling stuck is meaningful and moving ("the gift of imperfection"). He also described the prayer beads he and the Worship Committee are creating for the series. There will also be outside prayer ribbons on the front lawn, and a cross with chicken wire on it so people can write their prayers on a piece of paper, rolling it up and putting it on the cross. He also encourages everyone to invite someone!

- **Adult Sunday School classes:** Sunday AM w/Lois Bruno, Thursday Evening w/Raven Rudnitsky. Both will be held at the church. Thursday evening the Meeting Owl will be used. That is, of course, dependent on CDC guidelines as we go along.
- **Youth Leader Position: Torri Stark** applied. Christian Education/Personnel Committee. Council discussed her application and salary. Jack made a motion that we hire Torri Stark at \$17/hr, seconded by Bob Engel. The motion was passed. Pastor Dietmar reminded everyone that every position at this church needs the support of church members.
- **Music committee**
 - **Julie Long** was interviewed by the committee for the Children's Choir, and they recommend that she be hired for the position. Jack Lewis made a motion to offer Julie Long the position at the salary that was projected in the annual budget for that. The motion was seconded by Bob Engel and passed by the council.
 - **Adam Dietz** was interviewed for the choir accompanist position for the Senior Choir and it was recommended that he be hired for the position, so Linda Turner made a motion to offer Adam Dietz the position at the original budgeted salary. The motion was seconded by Jack Lewis and the motion was passed by the council.
Both with the caveat that if we are not allowed to have the choirs due to COVID, we would change the offer to reflect our new situation.
- **Mary Ann Britton Funeral service and reception and Pat Namet's Memorial Service.** Marty reported that both went well with help from our volunteers, but there was a suggestion for reception/luncheon to set a 2-hour time limit.
- **Block Party w/Messy church:** There was a planning meeting for this, and the minutes are available upon request. A few pop ups would be needed for bingo and food tables. If it rains, it would be canceled, not going indoors or having a rain date.

- **Confirmation Group for the Fall:** There are 5 youths signed up. Pastor Dietmar still needs mentors and helpers
- **Vacation Pastor Dietmar:** August 16-29. August 22 - Tom Martin will provide the message. August 29 - Sally Dries will provide the message. Amelia Price will be on call for emergencies.
- **Green Team:** Shane reported on the potential creation of a “Living into Right Relations” committee – 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.
- **Visitation Ministry Coordinator** - search is ongoing
- **Fellowship Committee**
- **What is St Paul’s Vision:** Re-visit in January 2022.
- **Linda Turner’s Aunt Verda Smith** will have her 90th birthday. A card shower would be a nice gesture from St Paul’s.
- **Property and Grounds Committee:** Mike Proger/Rick Campbell reported. Eaton was given go ahead to replace both grease traps. We’re waiting for the roofer to start the roof replacement. We’re currently looking for more bids on concrete work as well as more bids/ideas for window replacement. Garage cleaning/reorganizing is currently

taking place. The small, red shed will have siding repair and red stain applied. We will need to measure and purchase plastic sheets and tarps to close off the kitchen before the grease trap replacement begins. We are responsible for dust cleanup after the grease trap replacement. Mike Proger can purchase all items at same time if given the info needed.

- **Nursery:** Jack made a motion to rehire the nursery attendant Tara Gardner at \$12.36/hr. Bob seconded and the motion was passed. We need another attendant on pay (Tara is going to ask around at SU in the Ed department), and also a list of volunteers. Since volunteers also all need their clearances, we should assist them in getting those if they don’t already have them.
- **Fundraiser:** Jack Lewis reported on the Boscov’s “Friends Helping Friends” fundraiser, which is allocated to Messy Church.

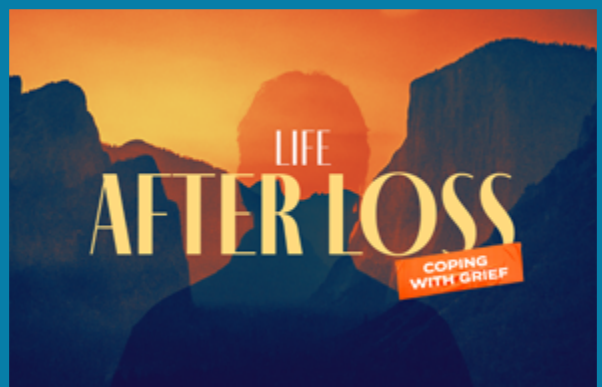
Next council Meeting: September 14, 2021. Shane will provide devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Shane Sanders, Council Secretary



Life after Loss

Beginning with September 16, Evangelical Hospice is offering a six-week Grief Support Group in Lewisburg. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn in community how to deal with grief, anger, forgiveness, and how to care for yourself in the grieving process. For more information contact the church office or directly Evan Hospice at (570) 522-2157.



Pastor's Report - July 2021



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

"Learning to Pray" will be our new worship series beginning with Back to Church Sunday on September 12 at 10:30 AM. The Worship Team has been a great help in planning for this series. We will explore together in worship why and how we pray and we will find new ways to connect with the living God. Like with bike riding and playing an instrument, we learn praying through practice. I invite people to share about their prayer experiences in worship. Also, what devotionals and what prayers they use that are meaningful to them.

I'm planning to teach a Confirmation Class beginning with Back to Church

Sunday for all children and youth grades 6 and up. So far I have five youngsters who are committed to participate: Jane Berger, Danika Burd, Sarah Garbo, Amelia Gentile, and Jack Stark. A few others are considering the opportunity. I'm still looking for a couple of mentors or junior mentors (who

took part in the Confirmation Experience in previous years) who will help with the class. The overall experience is geared toward being hands-on, multi-sensory, interactive, and experiential learning.

Together with the Christian Education Team we are exploring in what shape, way and format to offer faith formation opportunities for all ages at St. Paul's. Children's Sunday school is vital. Adult opportunities to grow in faith are important. Currently we are planning for a Sunday morning 9:15 AM adult group led by Lois Bruno to start on Sept. 12 and a Thursday evening group led by Raven Rudnitsky starting in October.

The Music, Christian Education, and Personnel Teams have been very active in advertising, interviewing and recommending new staff for employment as

we prepare for our program year to kick off with Back to Church Sunday: Joyful Noise Choir Director, Senior Choir Accompanist, Youth Leader, and Nursery Attendants.

I have been caring for families who experienced loss and officiated at several funeral and memorial services for Pat Namet, Mary Anne Britton, Donald Wilt, and Robert Benner. I'm deeply grateful to all on the Hospitality Team under Susan Bolig's leadership for their support of the families who lost loved ones and for making them feel welcome and at home here at St. Paul's.

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!

July 1-31, 2021

Days worked	23
Days off	07
Continuing Education	00
Vacation days	00
Holidays	01
Total Days	31

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Dietmar Plajer



It is once again time for Bosco's Friends Helping Friends fundraiser to benefit our Messy Church ministry. For a \$5.00 donation to St. Paul's, you can shop at Bosco's on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 and get a 25% discount on most purchases (15% and 10% on certain items) that day. Passes will be available from Sue in the church office, from Randy Tanner and from me (Jack Lewis). You can call me at (570) 374-9732 or (570) 850-3295. I will even deliver the passes to your door. Please help support the Messy Church ministry.



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EVERYONE WELCOME



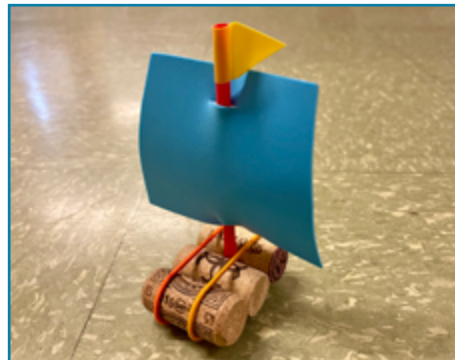
BLOCK PARTY **& MESSY CHURCH**

SEPTEMBER 12, 3 - 6 PM

COME JOIN US FOR SOME FELLOWSHIP AND FUN! THERE WILL BE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.



3:00 - 4:30 Messy Church crafts and fun



4:45 Pastor Dietmar shares the story of Jonah with us



3:00 - 4:30 Help paint the Loaves and Fishes Huts



3:00 - 5:30 Play Bingo for fun prizes



3:00 - 5:30 Basket raffle



5:00 - 5:45 Pizza and ice cream for all

“God is Still Speaking”



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

Fall worship Sunday at 10:30 AM
either on Facebook or our website

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

We thank God for...

New worship time 10:30 beginning September 12

Learning to Pray

On our Back to Church Sunday, September 12, at 10:30 AM we will begin a new worship series on prayer. We will focus on why to pray and how to pray. Our sanctuary will be transformed into a prayerful space. You can write personal prayers and concerns on paper and attach them to the cross upfront in the sanctuary. You can light your personal candle on Sunday mornings. You can attach prayer ribbons to the outdoor installation along the sidewalk of the church. And you can receive prayer beads specifically designed for this season. Request your prayer beads at saintpauls-ucc.org/prayer-beads. We invite you to join us in person and online as we focus together on how to pray.

