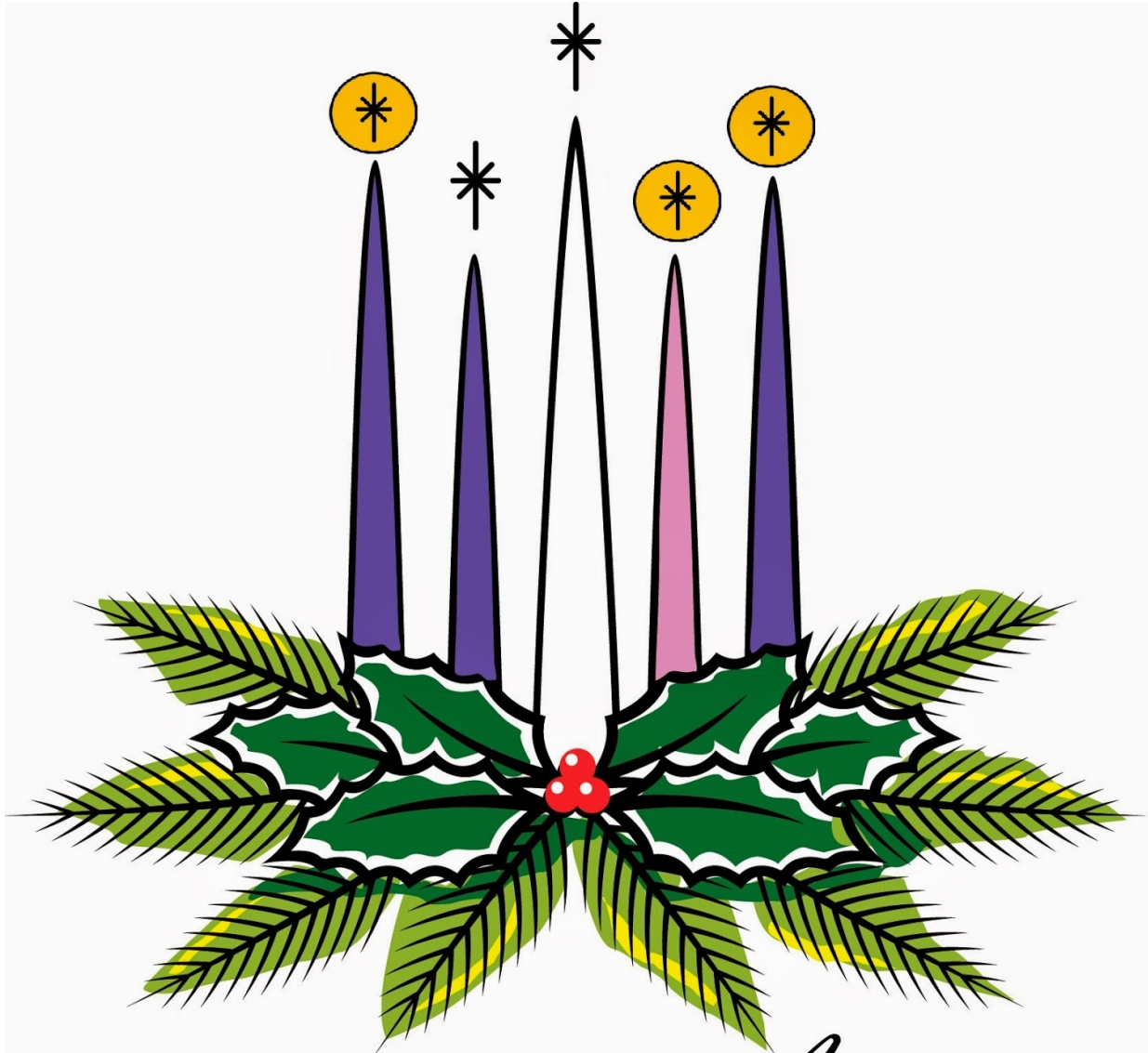


Weekly News from
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org



3rd SUNDAY OF *Advent*



Sunday, December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

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

††† Worship Participants & Sponsorships †††

Thank you to all who have made this worship experience possible.

| | <u>Today</u> December 12th | <u>Next Sunday</u> December 19th |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Usher Captain | Barb O. | Robin H. |
| Usher Co-Captain | Georgi H. | Jon H. |
| Usher/Greeter | Zion | Zion |
| Usher/Greeter | Zion | Zion |
| Acolyte | Wynn H. | Wynn H. |
| Crucifer | Paul S. | Paul S. |
| Welcome/Lector | George M. | Geri G. |
| Cantor | Sheri R. | Terry P. |
| Children's Message | Pastor Ben | Children's Program |
| Advent Wreath Participants | Zion | St. Paul's |
| AV Tech | Kirk A. | Kirk A. |
| Koffee Klatch | Zion | Denise U. |
| Bulletins | - | - |
| Altar Flowers | Sheri & Tim R. | - |

The Bulletins are given by

Open

The Altar Flowers are given by

Sheri & Tim Rowe

in honor of

Pastor Ben Motz and Pastor Mary Etta Mest.

† 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.
Norm B.
Lori & Ryan B.
Rich D.
Bridget E.
Jacob E.
Andy G.
Jaden G.
Ann H.
Barry H.
Leigh H.
Jim & Donna K.
Donald L.
Janice L.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Ella L.
Edmund L.
Amy M.
George M.
Gary N.
Terry P.
Paul P.
Fred R.
Earl S.
John S.
Jim S.
Rob & Jodi S.
Spencer Family
Martha W.
Austin W's grandfather

Mourning:

Family & Friends of Richard H.
Family & Friends of Jon H.
Family & Friends of James L.
Family & Friends of Diane M.
Family & Friends of Chick M.
Family & Friends of Bruce W.

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@sprucc.org. For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at www.sprucc.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. **No Sunday school on December 26 and January 2.**

Congregational Meeting - TODAY

After the worship service today, we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary. We will be electing our leadership for 2022, and the 2022 church budget will be discussed and voted upon.

Christmas Vesper Service - TODAY

Everyone is invited to the 19th Annual Christmas Vesper Service of St. Daniel's Lutheran Church. This service will feature the Reading Pops Orchestra and vocal soloists.

This service will be held on today, December 12th at the Conrad Weiser High School Auditorium. It will begin at 4:00pm. Pre-service music will be provided by the POPS Brass Ensemble beginning at 3:30pm.

A free will offering will be taken. Face coverings would be appreciated. Please call 610-693-5145 for more information, or go to www.stdaniels.com.

Women's Group Meeting - Monday

The women of the church will be meeting tomorrow, Monday, December 13th at 7:00pm. Please bring homemade cookies to share with one another and fellowship together. ALL women of the churches are invited!!

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=RzI3dTl4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09>

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)

Communion Packing & Delivery - Wednesday

We will have volunteers doing a no-touch delivery of the blessed communion elements beginning on Wednesday, December 15, and continuing through the weekend. This is in anticipation of our Friday, December 24, 2021 Christmas Eve worship services at 5:00pm, 8:00pm and 11:00pm. If you are able to help with the packing and/or delivery, please come to the church on Wednesday at 10:00am. We are in need of more volunteers.

Evening Bible Study - Book of Acts - Wednesday

Our evening Bible Study will be held this Wednesday, December 15th, from 6:30-7:30pm. It is a hybrid study. Those who would like to participate from home should use the Zoom information found above; same numbers as the Weekly Morning Bible Study. Those who would like to participate in person should come to the church. A large screen will be set up in the Miller Fellowship Hall.

Please have a Bible available during the study. If you do not have one, join us at the church and you will be supplied with one. We will be using the study guide entitled, *Acts 1-12: God Moves in the Early Church*, written by Chuck and Winnie Christensen. The study guide is not necessary to participate.

During this study we will be concentrating on the first twelve chapters of the Book of Acts. This time period was at the beginning of the Christian Church, after Jesus ascended into heaven. It was a time when the disciples needed to begin making decisions and providing leadership without Jesus being physically there with them to lead the church. Pastor Mary Etta will be our study leader. All are invited!

Do You Enjoy Singing?

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).

Children's Christmas Program - Next Sunday

The children are busy preparing for their Christmas Program to be presented during the worship service on Sunday, December 19th. Please plan to attend to support the children as we all prepare for Christmas!

Homebound Bags & Caroling - Next Sunday

After church next Sunday (December 19th) we will be packing bags of goodies for the homebound members of St. Paul's and Zion. We will then go out and deliver the bags, caroling at each location. Currently we are in the process of collecting small items like toiletries, word search books, lip balm, body lotion, etc. We hope you will help us with this project, either with donations, helping to put everything together, and/or delivering it. Donations may be placed in the marked bin on the stage in the Miller Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Worship Services

We hope you will join us on Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve, to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus. We will be offering three services; 5:00pm, 8:00pm, and 11:00pm. All three services will have communion and candles for our worshippers. The services will be offered in-person, as well as virtually. If the sanctuary fills up, the Miller Fellowship Hall will be set up to receive attendees. Come early so that you may get a seat in the sanctuary.

Hats, Scarves, Mittens, Gloves

For the month of December, we will be collecting donations of new hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves for Opportunity House in Reading and for St. Paul's Clothing Closet. Opportunity House is a homeless shelter that changes lives by educating, housing, feeding and empowering people to stand on their own feet. St. Paul's Clothing Closet is a mission outreach program that provides families with free gently used children's clothing (1 bag per child). Please help us keep others warm this winter. Bring donations upstairs at church and place near or on the Christmas tree. Donations will be accepted until December 31, 2021.

Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner

The Men's Group will be having their Annual Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner on Saturday, January 1st from 11:00am to 1:00pm. **It is a Take Out Only event (COVID precautions).** Tickets are \$12.00/meal. The meal includes pork, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, apple sauce, and cake. We hope that you will stop by and pick up a meal. If you would like to help, please contact the church office at 610-621-5770.

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.