

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



# 4TH SUNDAY OF *Advent*



**Sunday, December 19, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**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> <b>December 19<sup>th</sup></b>
Usher Captain	Robin H.
Usher Co-Captain	Jon H.
Usher/Greeter	Zion
Usher/Greeter	Zion
Acolyte	Wynn H.
Crucifer	Paul S.
Welcome/Lector	Geri G.
Cantor	Terry P.
Children's Message	Children's Program
Advent Wreath Participants	St. Paul's
AV Tech	Kirk A.
Koffee Klatch	Denise U.
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.  
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.  
Ella L.

#### **Medical Concerns & Healing:**

Edmund L.  
Amy M.  
George M.  
Gary N.  
Terry P.  
Paul P.  
Fred R.  
Bryce S.  
Earl S.  
John S.  
Jim S.  
Rob & Jodi S.  
Spencer Family  
Nancy & Lee V.  
Martha W.  
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.  
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](mailto: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](mailto:CareTeam@sprucc.org). For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at [www.sprucc.org](http://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.**

### Children's Christmas Program - TODAY

The children have been busy preparing for their Christmas Program to be presented during this morning's worship service. Please plan to attend to support the children as we all prepare for Christmas!

### Homebound Bags & Caroling - TODAY

After church today 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. We hope you will help us with this project, either with helping to put everything together, and/or delivering & caroling. Thank you to all who graciously donated items!

### 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).

### Christmas Eve Worship Services - Friday

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 worshipers. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Liturgical Dance**

We are very excited to have a new worship experience at St. Paul's Church on Sunday, January 9, 2022 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 member 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 11 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.

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00pm. This free workshop is 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 9<sup>th</sup>. If you are a leader who cannot attend on this date, please be in contact with Pastor Ben to see if an additional date might be possible.

### **Clearances Workshop**

The congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ 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 23<sup>rd</sup> after worship there will be a Clearances Workshop that will enable participants to begin the process of obtaining or renewing their clearances. For more information, please contact Pastor Ben or Elsa Wertz.

### **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.