

Weekly News from
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
and
Zion United Church of Christ**

301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551
610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org -- www.sprucc.org
zionuccwomelsdorf@gmail.com -- www.lzion.org
Worship 10:15am



**Sunday, January 9, 2022
Epiphany Sunday
The Baptism of Christ**

††† Worship Participants & Sponsorships †††

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

Today - January 9th

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Usher Captain | - |
| Usher Co-Captain | - |
| Usher/Greeter | George McLain |
| Usher/Greeter | Dottie McLain |
| Acolyte | - |
| Crucifer | Paul S. |
| Welcome/Lector | - |
| Cantor | Sheri R. |
| Children's Message | Geri G. |
| AV Tech | Kirk A. |
| Koffee Klatch | Zion UCC |
| Bulletins | - |
| Altar Flowers | - |

The Bulletins are given by

Open

The Altar Flowers are given by

Open

*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*

† St. Paul’s Prayer List †

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Sam B.
Tina B.
Rich D.
Bridget E.
Chris E.
Andy G.
Barry H.
Leigh H.
Nevin K.
Jim & Donna K.
Janice L.
Donald L.
Donna L.
Ella L.
Edmund L.
Owen M.

Medical Concerns & Healing:

Amy M.
George M.
Gary N.
Terry P.
Fred R.
John R.
Earl S.
John S.
Jim S.
Rob & Jodi S.
Bryce S.
Robert S.
Spencer Family
Bailey U.
Nancy & Lee V.
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.

Social Concerns:

Those impacted by COVID-19
Those working on a vaccine for COVID-19
Those who serve in the armed forces

† Zion’s Prayer List †

Help & Healing:

Family of Candace H.
Pat N.
Jed C’s Family
Bill M.
McLain relative with Covid
All people dealing with catastrophes
The Palmer Family

Military People:

Sgt. Benjamin
Senior Airman Sarah
MASN Cody
LanCpl Ben

College People:

Madison H.
Jack S.
Shane M.

In Thankfulness:

For God’s Provision for Zion UCC
Rebecca S. - college graduation

Job Search:

Rebecca S.

Guidance:

For decisions which Zion & St. Paul’s
will be making

*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 or Pastor Mary Etta.

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

††† 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@spruce.org. For more information, go to our "[Visitation Care Ministries](#)" page at www.spruce.org under the "ministries" tab.

Sunday School - Canceled for today; will resume next Sunday

Sunday school for adults and youth takes place each Sunday morning from 9:00-9:45am. Both adult and youth classes are shared with Zion UCC. Please join us to learn more about God's Word.

Liturgical Dance - Postponed to January 23, 2022

We are very excited to have a new worship experience at St. Paul's Church today 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 friend 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.

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).

Set Your Cell Phone Alarm for Noon Every Day

Why? To thank God in unison for our blessings as congregations worshipping together. To ask for God's guidance as we begin serious discussions about the possibility of becoming a new congregation with a new name.

Pray: God, we pray for your guidance. Is this your will or is this not your will? Reveal your plan to us. Guide us through every step of your plan, whatever that is. Amen.

Psalm 119:105 - Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Women's Afternoon Luncheon - Reservations due tomorrow

All women of St. Paul's and Zion UCC are invited to the monthly luncheon held at Country Fare in Myerstown. This month it will be held on Thursday, **January 13th** at 12:00noon. Please let Pastor Mary Etta know if you are planning to attend. She will need to know by **tomorrow, Monday, January 10th**, so that an accurate reservation may be made. Friends are welcome as well. Typically the luncheon is held on the second Thursday of the month. However, in February, the luncheon will shift to the third Thursday (February 17) for one time only. The luncheon is always scheduled for 12noon. Hope to see you there.

Wanted: Clean, Used Plastic Grocery Bags

St. John's Hain's UCC is making blankets for homeless people by crocheting strips of plastic bags. If you do not already have a good place for your bags, please bring them to the stage in Miller Fellowship Hall and place them in the labeled green bin. If you would be interested in helping to make these blankets, please contact Pat Roberts at PatRoberts@stjhains.org.

Sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring altar flowers, the bulletin, or even the newsletter, in honor or memory of a loved one, or a special event in your life. A new Flower Chart has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, and up-to-date sponsor sheets have been placed on clipboards nearby. Detailed information may be found on the poster display by the clipboards.

Attention All Instrumental Musicians

In the new year, Pastor Bob would like to try to incorporate instrumental musicians during our worship's musical ministry. He would like to utilize school musicians, as well as adults who still remember how to read music. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Pastor Bob and let him know your interest and what instrument you play. Any and all instruments are welcome - clarinets, flutes, saxophones, trumpets, tubas, bass drums, guitars, pianists, recorders, flutophones, boombas, accordions, waxpaper on a comb, or something never heard of. You may contact Pastor Bob at 610-927-8741 or 484-769-4076.

Valentine's Day Care Package

It is the plan of both Zion and St. Paul's to put together a Valentine's Day care package for our youth members that are in college. We would like to send them fun things like coloring pages, crayons, cookies, and other food items (these help to relieve stress), as well as useful items like thumb drives, highlighters, facial tissues, cleaning wipes, hand sanitizers, sanitizing wipes, masks, forever stamps, etc. We are planning on assembling these items after church on January 30. Everything will need to be in the mail by February 4 so that it is received in time for Valentine's Day.

We would like your help. We are still determining how many youth members are in college, but we think there are a total of 6 youth from both churches. If you would like to donate some items for this project, please bring them to the church and place them in the collection bin in the upstairs hallway. If you would like to donate money which will be used to purchase items as well as help pay for the postage to mail everything, please indicate on your check that it is for the Valentine's Day Project, or if donating online indicate "Valentine Project" on the Fund Raiser or Special Mission line. There will also be a container at the back of the church where you may drop in your loose change. Thank you for your help with this project!

Communications Workshop

This Tuesday, **January 11th** 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.

The Book of Acts Bible Study

The next session of the Book of Acts Bible Study will take place this Wednesday, **January 19th** from 6:00-6:45pm (please note the time change). Pastor Mary Etta is our teacher and guide. There are a total of 4 sessions left in our study: January 19, January 26, February 16 & February 23. We hope you will join us in-person or remotely via Zoom. The necessary Zoom info is as follows:

Meeting ID: 874 5212 4156 Passcode: 783249

For people joining with telephone: 1-301-715-8592

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87452124156?pwd=RzI3dTl4Uy8vWGpBQnRzOGV2bnlrdz09>

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 19th** from 7:00-9:00pm. This is free and 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 the end of today, Sunday, January 9th. Can't attend on this date? Please check with Pastor Ben to see what other date is possible.

Clearances Workshop

St. Paul's UCC 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 23rd** after worship there will be a Clearances Workshop that will enable participants to begin the process of obtaining or renewing their clearances. Contact Pastor Ben or Elsa Wertz for more info.

Redner's Tapes

If you would like to help the local Meals on Wheels (Berks Encore/Wernersville), an easy way to do it is with Redner's Tapes. Please place your Redner's receipts in the brown paper bag on the table in the upstairs hallway. The bag is labeled "Redner's Tapes". There are some stipulations:

- You must use your reward card when you checkout your groceries.
- The tape must say: "Today's 1% Save-A-Tape Total \$ _____."
- **Please Do Not Make Any Marks On Your Tape.**
- Tapes cannot be more than 3 years old.
- We need the whole tape.

Thank You!

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.