

# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Somerset, PA

Friday, January 20, 2023

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No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!

## Our Ministry Team

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Rev. J. Matthew Deal: *Pastor*

Mrs. Amanda Deal: *Interim  
Director of Children & Youth  
Ministries*

Mr. Dave Neimiller: *Organist &  
Director of Music*

Mrs. Cindy Lambert:  
*Administrative and Financial  
Secretary*

Ms. Marcy Shellenberger:  
*Children's and Youth Choir  
Director*

Church Council Officers:  
President – Mike Boyer  
Vice President – Susan Geary  
Secretary – Lisa Yeckley  
Treasurer – Henry Cook

Church Office: 814-445-4534

Dear St. Paul's Friends and Family,

*And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."  
(Matthew 4:19)*

I've never been very good at fishing. I spend most of my time either snagged on rocks, tangled in a tree, or making my reel look like a bird's nest with fishing line going everywhere but where it's supposed to go! Surprisingly, I enjoy going fishing. I like being on the water surrounded by mother nature. The experience, aside from evidence to the contrary, leaves me with a peaceful feeling.

Jesus' invitation to the fishermen to come and follow and become fishers of people was compelling enough for them to leave the tools of their trade on the seashore and explore a new line of work. Jesus knew his audience and I can imagine that the notion of using their skills to do something more for God in the world would be quite appealing. The fishing metaphor as applied to someone like me is not nearly as effective. I don't fish well and have trouble translating the tangled line and so many drowned worms to being a successful disciple of Jesus. In short, if being a competent angler is a requirement for discipleship, I will fail!

Perhaps that's the point! Jesus just happens to be speaking to Peter, Andrew, James, and John who are fishermen, he could just as easily have been speaking to a teacher, farmer, tax collector, mechanic, and so on and so forth. He would have been inviting that person to come and follow, teach, plant, steward, and fix for people on behalf of God. Discipleship is not really a destination where we arrive as a proficient success, but rather a way of life, a journey of growth as we live into an understanding of Jesus that transforms us and the world around us. Like most journeys, we enjoy the successes of adventure and progress, but we also have our fair share of detours, U-turns, flat tires, and breakdowns.

Today's reading is not simply an evangelistic text compelling us to catch followers for Jesus, but instead bears witness to how a close encounter with Jesus can be transformative. When you follow Jesus, you become more than just your job or whatever gives your life order and meaning, but all that you are is made holy by following Jesus. We are transformed and blessed by being included in the community that is the Body of Christ.

May you find blessings on your journey!

Pastor Matt

## **Here are our worship opportunities for the week ahead:**

Sunday, gathered in the Sanctuary and online on Facebook & YouTube at 9:30am.

Telephone Worship: Tuesdays at 3:00pm

**For telephone worshippers: the toll-free conference call number is 1-844-855-4444. The automated service will then ask for your access code or PIN. Please enter: 512013#.**

### **Sunday, January 22, 2023**

#### **The Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Prelude

Call to Worship (adapted from Isaiah 9) Rev. Mary Petrina Boyd

One: To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.

**All: To those who dwell in gloom and despair, God's glorious presence has appeared.**

One: God is indeed our light and our salvation.

**All: We will follow, unafraid, where God and Jesus lead us.**

One: Let us worship our God of light and promise.

**All: Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.**

Opening Hymn: "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" #23

\*The Greeting

Call to Confession

L: Our God who is faithful and just hears our prayers and grants us forgiveness.

**All: Let us in confidence make our confession to God.**

Prayer of Confession Rev. Mary Petrina Boyd

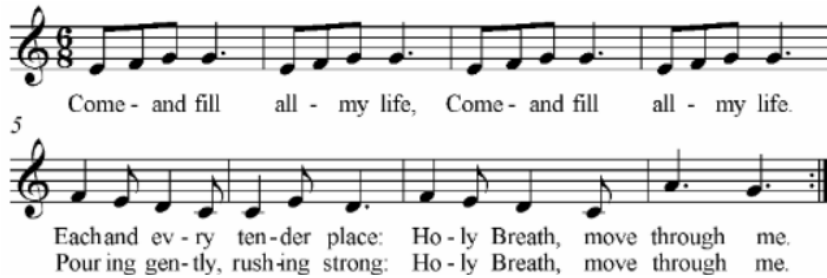
**God of light, we live in the darkness of despair: worried about our lives, concerned for our health, fearful that we are lost from you. The yoke of our burdens lies heavy upon us: our unwillingness to forgive, our fears of one another, our reluctance to share what we have, our divisions and quarrels. We long to turn from the dark and live in the light. We yearn to leave what is evil and follow the paths of righteousness. Shine the light of your love upon us and transform us with your love, that your promised realm may draw near. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.**

*a time for personal reflection and confession*

Kyrie



## Prayer Response



5 Come - and fill all - my life, Come - and fill all - my life.

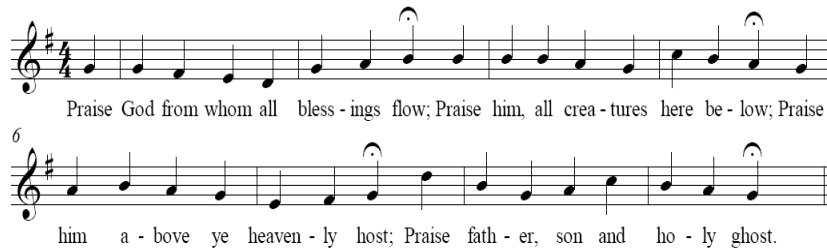
Each and ev - ry ten - der place: Ho - ly Breath, move through me.  
Pouring gen - tly, rushing strong: Ho - ly Breath, move through me.

## Invitation to the Offering Rev. J.M. Deal

L: Blessings abound! Just as God holds nothing back in giving us the fullness of God's own self, let us offer all of our lives in these our gifts and tithes. In this way, we join in the great company of God's beloved people.

## Offertory

### \*The Doxology



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise  
6 him a - bove ye heaven - ly host; Praise fath - er, son and ho - ly ghost.

### \*The Prayer of Dedication Rev. J.M. Deal

**All: Christ comes! Our hearts are full, our joy is boundless. May this offering be a living message of peace, love, spirit, joy and hope to this church, to this community, to this nation and world. Amen.**

### The Prayer of Our Savior (unison):

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun" #95

### \*The Benediction

"Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit."

And may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit remain with you forever. Amen.

### \*Organ Interlude and Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude

Watch Facebook and YouTube for special devotionals and offerings during the week.

*Check Facebook and watch your email for changes of services that may have changed from week to week, possibly even day to day.*

**We are grateful for your continued support of St. Paul's ministry and mission giving!**

*Please note, we continue to accept offering during our in-person services, USPS mailed in offerings and online with Tithe.ly. If you have any questions, please call the church at 814-445-4534.*

**Please check our website periodically throughout the week for updates: [www.stpaulsuccsomerset.org](http://www.stpaulsuccsomerset.org)**

***Greeters and Ushers:***

Today: Mike Boyer – chair

Rich Nichols

Next Sunday: Henry Cook – chair

Roger Romesberg

**Nursery Volunteers**

This Sunday: Emily Korn

Becky Smith

Next Sunday: Kate Flick

Sue Willison



Altar Flowers

*This Sunday's flowers are given In Memory of Richard & Luella Hauger by the Korn family.*



## Formed in Faith

Join us as we grow together in our faith!

Christian Education & Faith Formation Classes run September - May.  
Enjoy a time of fellowship & light snacks following Sunday morning worship.  
Afterwards, grow in your faith with learning opportunities for all ages.

Classes from 10:45-11:45am:

Young at Heart - Salem Chapel

(Adults)

Children's Church Plus+ - Youth Room

(Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>)

Young Explorers - Nursery

(Pre-School - Kindergarten)



\* Youth Group (Grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>) meets @ 12pm every other Sunday  
starting September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Children & Youth Ministry Staff Update**

At their regularly scheduled December meeting, Church Council called Amanda Deal to serve as the part-time interim Director of Children & Youth Ministries. During this time of transition, church leadership will be assessing the children and youth ministry programs. This will be a time to discern the future of our programming as we begin our search for a permanent Director of Children & Youth Ministries. Programs like Children's Church & Children's Church+, Sunday School, and Youth Group will continue to meet as they have in the past. Part of the interim director's work will be to resource these programs with the materials they need to meet and to recruit volunteers who are willing to lead Children's Church and Children's Church+ each Sunday. Please contact Amanda Deal if you're interested in helping at 814-279-5505 or ajhern@gmail.com.



Calling All Acolytes! We could really use some more children and youth acolytes! The job is really easy, but also really important! The acolyte lights and extinguishes the candles to remind us that the service is beginning and ending. The light also symbolizes Christ's light with us in worship and going out into the world when worship concludes. Please put your name on the acolyte schedule that's on the bulletin board in the hallway if you'd like to acolyte. Please talk to Pastor Matt if you've never done it before and have questions or would like to learn how to acolyte.

**The 2023 Offering Envelopes** are in the Narthex and ready for pick-up. Please see or call Cindy at 814-445-4534 during office hours if you have any questions.

*Note: If your number was between 121 and 130 you will have a new number for 2023. Please use your new envelopes after January 1<sup>st</sup>.*



Time to get  
BACK into the "SING" of Things!



**The Children's and Youth Choirs** practice on Saturdays at 9:30- 10:00am. Please join us in the Salem Chapel. Ages 4 through high school.



St. Paul's UCC will be celebrating

## **HOPE SUNDAY**

again this year on  
March 19, 2023!

Order Forms are in the Narthex or  
accessed Online or via Facebook!

### **This will be Somerset County's 10th Annual "BLOOMS of HOPE"...**

ALL funds raised (100%) will go to the Walk of Hope Somerset  
Fund to help local cancer patients & their families.

PLEASE consider honoring or remembering loved ones  
by supporting this gift of HOPE!

The price is \$10 per bunch of daffodils or \$12 for a potted plant...

PLEASE make all checks payable to  
**BLOOMS of HOPE** !

Orders and payment are **due no later than February 26th**  
and can be given/sent to the church office or  
to Kim Keim or Marcy Shellenberger.

For more information, please call  
Marcy (814-442-1610) or Kim (814-443-4215)!





## **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

### **January's Mission Offering is Church World Service's Blanket Program**

Since its formation in 1957, the United Church of Christ has worked with Church World Service (founded in 1946) to accomplish more together than it could alone, joining hearts and resources to create a tradition of help and a legacy of hope. They work to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world.

When disaster strikes, Church World Service is the primary agency through which the UCC gives support for relief and recovery efforts. This assistance may take the form of winterized family tents for Pakistani earthquake survivors, food packages and tankers full of water for displaced people in violence-torn Darfur, Sudan, or long-term recovery assistance for families affected by hurricanes, tornados, or flooding across the United States.

If you would like to read more about it, find it here: <https://cwsglobal.org/>