



# The Courier

St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Indianland  
January/February 2021



## A New Journey

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

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Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. (Matthew 2)

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The wise men came to pay homage to Jesus as they followed a star for several years. It was a journey that took them through many foreign lands and certainly raised the anxiety of "rulers" in the regions that they passed through on their way. Anxiety has been something many of us have been facing since the beginning of the pandemic and with the continued escalation of cases all around us and even in many churches and families that we know. The challenges and the opportunities in these past nine months have been numerous, have been exhausting, and have been a blessing amid chaos. Many of us, and I stand at the front of the line, seem lost and unsure as to what will come next. It seems that every single decision that we made or will make, takes more planning, more investigating and a new path needs to be forged for the continued journey. With all this written, it brings me to the point of this message. I need a break! I have emptied myself and feel a giant disconnect with the understanding of my calling to serve and with my ability to even do so effectively and appropriately. Therefore, under the guidance of the Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference, and after discussion with the leaders of our church, it has been agreed that I enter a sabbatical for the month of January to renew myself as well as to get in greater touch with where God is calling and leading. Please, sisters and brothers, do not be greatly alarmed and I do not wish to add any greater anxiety into your lives with this news as well. I have foolishly worked nonstop since the pandemic began, recalling only two days where I have not been in either church building. My expected time off, like so many others, was cancelled because of COVID-19 so I did what I do, I kept at it and now see where that was a mistake.

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# Christian Education News

## Pastor's Message Continued

As I led worship in November, I felt completely empty and I will admit to you that it was exceedingly difficult to offer any hope amid all the chaos. The gift of Advent has been a source of hope as we lit the candles and heard again, the prophecies of Christ's coming. That has provided some strength as well as the support the church leaders have offered in my time of uncertainty. I want to be honest with all of you in that I had written my resignation letters to both churches in November. I sent them to Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, PNEC Conference Minister as a courtesy and a heads up. I did all of this during a period of 36 hours where I could not rest appropriately as I felt God was calling me to something new. I had no idea, at the time, what that was, I just felt it was not pastoral ministry. However, as I went to try and get some rest, I felt a sensation calling me to "stop!" So, I did not submit my resignations, but had dialogue that revealed where I was, how I felt, and what I believe are the next steps for all of us.

I have asked Rev. Michael McGowan to lead the worship services in my absence. I will not be available to anyone during this time, and Rev. McGowan will cover any emergencies as best as possible given the ongoing pandemic and the ever changing and emerging restrictions and precautions. It has been a challenging time, and I understand that. However, if I continue this pace, I feel it will be an even more disastrous decision! I have begin meeting with a spiritual counselor and have had some therapy sessions as well. I hope and pray that you stay safe, that the new year brings some relief from where we have been, a vaccine is being administered, and that we are reunited with one another very soon, not just via technology, but in person as well.

I ask for your patience and understanding in this month of growth and renewal, and I wish you all a very blessed New Year. Until we can be together, we remain, always, connected by the Spirit which unites us and connects us.

In hope and faith,

Pastor Martin

## Christian Education

This year has been different and challenging for all of us. In December's article it was stated that each family with children in Sunday school would be receiving an Advent Devotional. Part of our challenges have also been with the US Postal Service.

I am hoping that each family has received the devotional even though it may have been received after the start of Advent. As you worked together, reading, coloring, designing the ornaments for the Jesse Tree, you as a family have found the historical path from the Garden to Jesus and to each one of you. Each one of us is part of a family tree/s. But most important we are also part of Jesus' family tree.

As a New Year begins, I wish you a Safe, Healthy, and Happy New Year, 2021.

## Weekly Lessons

Pastor Martin offers a weekly lesson posted to our Facebook page on Sunday Mornings for children and adults to listen to. You may check it out any time after 9:00AM on a Sunday morning. If you have any questions or issues, please let us know.

I was planning to send the first 2 weeks for January 2021 to our Sunday school families, however, the postal delays have caused me to rethink that. Please feel free to access the Lessons on-line through the Whole People of God website. The user id is office@indianland.org and the password is hwp2m5fv. The website: [www.wholepeopleofgod.com](http://www.wholepeopleofgod.com)

If you have any questions, please email either me, Beth Sikorsky @ [hopewhim@ptd.net](mailto:hopewhim@ptd.net) or the church office at [office@indianland.org](mailto:office@indianland.org).

# *Church Happenings Now and Yet to Come*

## **Confirmation Class**

The Confirmation class will not gather in January while Pastor Martin is on sabbatical. However, the class has been given an assignment that includes reading the books of Luke and Acts. Feel free to join them in their journey by reading Luke and Acts as well.

## **Annual Reporting Meeting**

At this time, **our annual congregational reporting meeting will not be held.** We will be compiling an annual report, as we have done in past years for record keeping. We will also be willing to print one for anyone who would like to have one. What do you need to do? Tell us that you would like one and we will make it happen sometime in the month of February once Pastor Martin returns from his sabbatical. **Committee reports are due to the church office by Friday, January 29th please.**

## **Souper Bowl of Caring**

On **Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th**, we will once again be collecting soups, crackers and monetary gifts for the Northampton Area Food Bank as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring national event. Please plan to bring items to church that day and we will once again have the cook pots in the Narthex for your generous donations. Souper Bowl of Caring was originally founded by a church youth group. Even though the movement has since expanded from the faith community to many types of participating groups, it continues to be fueled by those coming together to worship and make a difference in their community. St. Paul's has participated for many years in the Souper Bowl of Caring!

## **COVID-19**

As we have seen the increase in the case counts of Covid and more and more people that we know have been testing positive, we want you to know that we, as the church leaders, are keeping a watchful eye on the situation. At our last meeting, we had a lengthy discussion on the possibility of closing the building down for in-person worship. We are all very concerned about everyone who is gathering and are also aware that many of the places where Covid has been contracted, have not been adhering to social distancing and/or mask usage. We have been strictly adhering to these guidelines while gathering for worship, and that will continue. We had hoped to have Communion on Christmas Eve, however, it was deemed too risky to do since we would have to remove our masks in order to participate. Please know, that at this time, we will not be scheduling another Communion, in the Sanctuary, until the case counts greatly diminish. We appreciate everyone's understanding of this decision. We also remind you, that if you do not feel well, please stay home. We encourage you to stay safe as well and if you have been in worship and then find out you may have been exposed to someone who tested positive, please call the church immediately! While Pastor Martin is on sabbatical in January, the Elders and the rest of the Consistory will make the necessary decisions about gatherings. Rev. McGowan is prepared to lead the services and will leave any other decisions to our church leaders. Please pray for all people who have contracted Covid as well as for the continued distribution of the vaccine to those who are on the front lines as well as those who deal with underlying health issues that Covid could challenge. For Lent, this year, I will be doing something on-line. We will not be gathering in the church buildings. Thank you.

# PRAYER LIST

## Current Need:

Debbie Budinetz	Don Brensinger	Sheila Doll	Gloria Newhard	Brenda Usher
Dustin Miller	Sallie Weaver	Karen Hantz	Jack Doll, Jr	Beverly Putt
Janice Beck	Stockton Rodney	Robert Knot	Carol McDonald	Mike Hartman
Charlene Petruska	Anne Harrity	Sharon Green	Angie	Johnny
Faye Neff	Jessica Smith	Kim Mickey	Darlene Blocher	Jimmy Hurstman
Robbie Moore	Judy Silnik	Evan Hantz	Nancy Green	Andrea Coughlin
Zachary Long	Courtney Bloom	Kristen Meeker	The Bauer Family	Kay Bolus
Harold Frable	Jeff Reihoff	Donna Whitman	Charles Wagner	Jerry
Linda Baumgartner	Logan Krick	Alyzah Borger	Diane Cimo	Dale Coughlin
Nadia Cospier	Julie Gelfuso	Jessica Harris	Kayla Bartholomew	Jeanette Haram
Terry Carlton	Debbie	Carol and Angela	Mike Miller	Orlando Zaya
Carol Williams	Carol Gardner			


## Longer Term Need:

Theresa Carbonell	John Weaver	Jean Hankee	Darryl Wentz	Tina Rehrig
Brandon Snyder	Franklin Dorshimer	Joe & Deb McGeary	Richard Vesely	Mary Beatrice
Pat Neff	Vicki Hall	Cole Ruch	Kevin Reilly	Nigel Mease
Joseph Vadenya	David Jones	Linda Barkley	Aryiah	Becky
Russell Blakeslee	Deborah Peterson	Dawn Stattler	Karen Bet	Bob Bakross
Michelle Brosious	George Borger, Jr.	Marion Bossard	Sharlene Weaver	Shirley Cressman
Lori Rader	Pamela Martin	Susan Zachary	Joan Drey	The Chupa Family
Stan Butz	The Thomson Family	Kim Rey	Sam Steinmetz	Clark Plummer
Jim Miller	Howard & Ida Bachman		John Hine	Darlene Hock
Joanne Peters	Rose Lanus	Dorian Arnwine	Margo Roberts	Robert Custard
Vicki Eltz	Jeannie Yehl	Linda Becker	Laura Rannella	Gail Bauer
Noah Iucci	Lisa Dotson	Pat James	Amber Steffie	Corey Doolan
Karen White	Ryan Holmes	Peter Rosales	Katie & Maggie Paules	
Janet Erickson	Cindy Hogman	Larry Rehrig		
Gary Kresini	Louise King	Edie		
Ashley Henninger				

Names prayed for during worship will only include first names as we are streaming the services. Please make sure that someone you wish to place on the prayer lists knows that their name will be mentioned during the Pastoral prayer.



# JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone	4	5 <b>7:30P</b> — Elders	6	7	8	9 <b>10:00A</b> — Undecorate the Church
10 <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone	11	12	13 <b>7:00P</b> — Worship and Arts <b>7:30P</b> — Lay, Life and Work	14	15	16
17 <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone	18	19 <b>7:00P</b> — Consistory	20	21	22	23
24 <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone	25	26	27	28	29 <b>Annual Reports are Due!</b>	30
31 <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Service — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone  <b>Soup Orders Due!</b>						

**OFFICE HOURS:** The office hours vary. Please call the office to schedule an appointment if you need to. General messages may be sent to **office@indianland.org** or call 610-767-5751. In Case of emergency, this month only, please call the church office and listen for the emergency contact information. The Church website is [www.indianland.org](http://www.indianland.org). Thank you.

# FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>7:00P</b> — Con- firmation Class	2 <b>7:30P</b> — El- ders	<b>GROUND HOG DAY</b> 	4 <b>9:00A</b> — Making Soup	5 <b>9:00A</b> — Making Soup	6
7 <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Ser- vice — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone <b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b> <b>Soup Pickup</b>	8	9	10 <b>7:00P</b> — Wor- ship and Arts <b>7:30P</b> — Lay, Life and Work	11	12	13 <b>9:00A</b> — Mak- ing Donuts
14 <b>7:30A</b> — Contemporary Praise Service <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Ser- vice — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone <b>Donut Pickup</b>	15 <b>7:00P</b> — Con- firmation Cla	16 <b>7:00P</b> — Con- sistory  <b>Eat Donuts!</b>	17 <b>Ash Wednes- day</b>	18	19	20
21 <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Ser- vice — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <b>10:30A</b> — Worship Ser- vice — on-line, in person, in the parking lot or on the telephone						

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# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 — Ronnie Graver
- 5 — Dorothy Biscarr
- 6 — Marissa Marsh
- 8 — Kenda Rhodes
- 10 — Faith Fritz
- 18 — Austin Rabenold
- 22 — Stephanie Prutzman
- 23 — Nathaniel Angstadt
- 26 — Tara Field
- 27 — Irene Smith
- Robert Litsch
- 28 — Robin Laponuke
- 29 — Linda Ehret
- 30 — Robert Langley III



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please contact the church office so we can add you to our listing! Thank you.

## People & Places

### Sensational 70's Club:

- 1 — Ronnie Graver
- 5 — Dorothy Biscarr
- 27 — Irene Smith
- 29 — Linda Ehret

### *Wedding Anniversaries*

- 21 — Doug & Sandra Niebell —  
10 years



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

## People & Places

- 1 — Phyllis Geiss  
Bryan Fritz
- 2 — Wendy Fritz
- 3 — Al Walton  
Robert Litsch  
Andrew Bickert
- 4 — Ayden Silfies
- 5 — Mark Thomas
- 9 — Linda Hartzell
- 10 — Karen Bradberry  
Brennan Field
- 11 — Jack Doll III
- 12 — Michelle Walker
- 13 — Jacob Christman  
Leah Prutzman
- 16 — Phyllis Balliet  
Judy Frankel
- 17 — Gary Geiss  
Diane Cimo
- 18 — Ashlynn Angstadt
- 20 — Kim Biechy
- 21 — Kagen Balco
- 22 — Brandon Christman
- 23 — Dean Deppe  
Lee Strohl
- 26 — Donna Fritz  
Cassandra Langley
- 27 — Emily Golden
- 28 — Nancy Shoemaker  
Elizabeth Sikorsky



### Sensational 70's Club:

- 9 — Linda Hartzell
- 11 — Jack Doll III
- 16 — Phyllis Balliet  
Judy Frankel
- 28 — Nancy Shoemaker  
Elizabeth Sikorsky

### Exceptional 80's Club

- 1 — Phyllis Geiss
- 3 — Al Walton
- 17 — Gary Geiss

### *Wedding Anniversaries*

- 14 — Rochelle & Gary Salabsky —  
24 years  
Anthony & Diane Cimo —  
20 years
- 27 — Jack and Sheila Doll III —  
56 years  
Jay & Nancy Shoemaker —  
56 years



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please contact the church office so we can add you to our listing! Thank you.



# OUR MISSIONS

Noisy Offering for January is: The Northampton Area Food Bank

The Northampton Area Food Bank (NAFB) is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization in Northampton, Pennsylvania formed in 1992 by a group of local churches. We initially served about 50 families, operating out of a very small borrowed building.

As years passed, the needs of the community increased and we continued to answer the clarion call to assist our neighbors. We then opened a new facility in 2007 that was made possible through the generosity of donors, the contributions of local businesses, and the time and talents of hardworking and dedicated volunteers.

## **Our Mission**

The organization is committed to distributing wholesome food, free of charge, to individuals and families who are in need and unable to adequately obtain nourishment through their own resources.

## **Food Bank Supply**

Our supply is diminishing, so we need goods for distribution immediately. We are accepting the following:

Canned Soup

Canned or Boxed Potatoes

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Spaghetti and Sauce

Baked Beans

Canned Meats

Beef Stew

Tuna Fish

## **Providing Food To Disadvantaged Individuals And Families**

The Northampton Area Food Bank is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization that has been serving residents of the Northampton Area School District and its adjacent areas since 1992. Through our website, [www.northamptonareafgoodbank.org](http://www.northamptonareafgoodbank.org), we aim to provide you with information about our institution to make it easier for you to do business with us. We also keep you updated on our services as well as our courteous and resourceful staff.

"Northampton Area Food Bank is currently practicing CDC guidelines for safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic. All clients, volunteers and anyone entering the Food Bank must wear a mask covering the nose and mouth. We also mandate hand washing/sanitization and social distancing."

# OUR MISSIONS

Noisy Offering for February is: The Allentown Rescue Mission

## ABOUT US

Here at the Allentown Rescue Mission we are a team of dedicated employees and volunteers who meet people where they are at and give them the resources to get where they are going.

We are a non-denominational, Christian, social services organization, which provides critically-needed goods and services to homeless and impoverished men, without regard to race, color, creed, national origin or religion. The Mission is not a church, but does cooperate with many different churches that are concerned about poverty and homelessness.

Our motivation for helping those less fortunate goes back for more than 100 years and is rooted in Jesus Christ. We believe he has given us all a second chance in life—we've been saved, rescued and now get to provide that same hope and renewal to others here in the Lehigh Valley and the surrounding communities.

## HISTORY

"Ten years ago I was called to be a Rescue Mission Worker. I said I could not do it," said Obadiah Becker, the Mission's founder, at a National Federation of Gospel Missions convention in 1908. "I wrestled with it for two years because I did not feel I was well enough educated. When I wrestled with the Lord, He laid it on my heart to work for the cause of rescue missions—a poor drunkard to wrestle with the work of God."

"About that time our little baby fell and struck the back of her head. Three weeks after the accident, she fell over, and one side of her body was completely paralyzed. I prayed to God that our baby might be saved."

Obadiah prayed that if his daughter would get well, he would take it as a sign to dedicate his life to rescue work. "My prayer was answered," Obadiah explained. "The little girl is now running around, and I have consecrated my life to the work of God."

Beginning in 1900, he and Mrs. Becker ran the Mission in rented apartments at 104 N. 7th Street, and four years later at 161 Hamilton Street. Upon inheritance of Mrs. Becker's family home at 14 N. 3rd Street, it was remodeled to accommodate 200 worshippers and lodge 78 men.

It has been located at 355 W. Hamilton Street since 1961. Since the early 1900's, the Mission's goal for each man is self-sufficiency. The 1906 Mission statement explained their work: "The rescue of men who have been wrecked by sin, and who are desirous, by the help of God, to lead Christian lives... It provides a home for those who want to lead better lives until such a time when Christian manhood is established, and it is safe for them to live elsewhere in a good home."

## TODAY

The Mission continues to reinvent itself to address the increasingly complex root causes and issues of homelessness. Many of our clients experience "dual-diagnosis;" they have both a chemical addiction and some form of mental illness. Staff is educated and experienced, professional and compassionate.

For more than 100 years, the Mission has been a place where men have begun to experience restoration with God, their families, and their communities.

# OUR MISSIONS

## January Mission: The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

"It wasn't easy picking up the telephone to share with you my present situation. In fact, it was one of the most humiliating experiences of my life although it reminded me that grace still happens. Sometimes we as clergy persons lose sight of God's grace when the negative stuff comes into our lives."

"...thanks so much for sharing your time and ministry with me. Your most gracious gift is appreciated more than words can say as I continue to live in the 'meantime.'"

These eloquent words are from a pastor who is the recipient of the caring and concern of those who contribute to the Christmas Fund Offering.

You have the opportunity to be a part of this ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ through your participation in this year's Christmas Fund Offering.

Your gift to the Christmas Fund will not only assist pastors like the one above, but also provide for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks next December to lower-income retirees.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

### **2018: How the Funds Were Used:**

379 lower-income retirees received a monthly Pension Supplement totaling \$1,435,050.

174 lower-income retirees received health premium supplementation totaling \$429,903.

401 retirees received a Christmas "thank you" gift check totaling \$214,100.

49 active/retired UCC clergy and lay employees in urgent need received emergency assistance totaling \$60,526.

# OUR MISSIONS

## February Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing

The **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Thank you for your generous contribution.

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life.

Together, we are investing in communities worldwide: providing education to girls and boys, empowering communities through vocational training, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.

These are just a few ways the OGHS offering touches God's children, in addition to disaster relief and refugee initiatives.

Through your generosity, the world is a better place. But more is needed. Today, you have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering...and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity

### **Invest in Futures**

In Thailand, a 13-year-old girl arrives at the New Life Center, seeking relief from the cruel conditions that have brought her here. Her life up to this point has been mostly about survival. Here, she meets others like her. Some are survivors of sexual abuse, domestic violence or human trafficking. Some have been forced to work when they wanted to go to school.

What will the future be like when she is empowered to share her gifts with her community and the world?

At the New Life Center, she is met with the investment of time, support, and resources. And she is loved. She is allowed to imagine a new future. Finishing school. Learning a trade. Even going to University to earn a degree. In I Corinthians 3:9 Paul writes that we are all co-workers together in God's service. Some of us plant. Some of us water. But God gives the growth. Paul reminds us that we are all called into the service of God, who cares for each and every one of us. What could the future be like when we work to plant and water together, and trust God to give the growth?

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you invest in the futures of these girls and countless others like them. Your gifts go to provide education, vocational training, basic necessities, and much-needed community support. When we share the love of Christ in this way, we see lives transformed. Not just their lives, but ours as well. Because when we empower girls to build a life for themselves, we help God build a better world for us all.

As we invest in futures and serve as co-workers with God, the future becomes one of endless possibility and opportunity. What a great return on our investment!

# Lay, Life and Work

Happy New Year from the Lay Life and Work committee!! Thank you to all who made 2020 such a wonderful year even as we explored unique solutions to regularly scheduled events. The 2021 calendar is planned and will be listed in the annual report with all the typical yearly events, however, keep in mind the schedule is tentative with social distancing and Covid protocols in mind.

As the year begins, it is again time for a SOUP sale. During the cold snowy days nothing warms our bodies better than a hot and steamy bowl of soup and St. Paul's sure makes great food!! This year 3 varieties will be available including chicken noodle, beef vegetable and ham and bean. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, January 31st and the date of pick up will be after church on Sunday, February 7th. Soup will be made on Friday, February 5th for those who are available to help prepare. The cost is \$6/ quart. Please call the office to place an order.

Faschnaut Donut Day will follow closely behind on February 16th as Lent begins early again this year. We will be making donuts on Saturday, February 13th with pickup after church on Sunday the 14th. Each dozen will be \$5 and a half dozen will be \$3. Orders are due by February 7th and again please call the office to place an order.

A Hot Bacon Dressing Sale is anticipated for the end of March to prepare for Easter and a Take Out Ham and Dandelion Dinner will follow on May 1st. More details will follow in future communications.

Have a great start to a new year!! Respectfully submitted by Dawn Vilanova

This is the schedule of events planned by LLW at this time.

Dates to remember in 2021:

February	Soup Sale	Pick up after church February 7th
	Donuts	Make Feb 13th, Pick up after church Feb 14th
March	Bacon Dressing Sale	Ready for Easter
May	Ham and Dandelion	May 1st, take out only
	Basket Social	May 13, 14, 15
September	Chicken/Pork Dinner	September 25th, 2p-6p
October	Dream Come True	Oct 4th, Rain date Oct 11th
	Chili Dinner	October 24th, 4p-7p
November	Filling Sale	Pick up after church November 21st
	Thanksgiving Dinner	November 25th
December	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!	

Periodic Hoagies Sales will be added during the year for 2021.





# Additional News For the Parish

## Church Finances

At the Congregational meeting in December, the 2021 Budget was presented. While we are a very frugal church, spending as necessary to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ, there are expenses that we must meet in order to accomplish those ministries. The approved 2021 budget is \$140,410.00. This represents an increase over the 2020 budget of 5.04% which translates into \$6,743.00. While this is a concern, there are several reasons for this increase. Please do not read anything into this. It is provided as information, not criticism of anyone. Thank you all!

- We are streaming services and there are connection costs for some of the tools we are using to stream the services. This includes enhanced Internet service which is approximately \$50.00 more per month or \$600.00 per year.
- The mailing of the Courier will continue and it will require a new copier in order to prepare the Courier more efficiently. Currently it takes more than 4 hours to assemble the Courier in the format the Postal System requires. A new copier will enable sorting and collating in an appropriate fashion in order to ease the production of our published Courier. This has added \$1,200 to the 2021 budget which was not in the 2020 budget.
- In regards to the Pastor's compensation package, we are adhering to the Conference recommendations, however, we have been very blessed that Ellen Nuscher has been able to carry the family health insurance for many years and it has only cost us \$2,000 per year. This year, Ellen's job was terminated and, while she has gotten permanent employment, it is at a reduced wage scale and an increased health cost. After much discussion, the church leaders realized that we have enjoyed this "savings" for many years and that it was appropriate to cover a portion of this increase as an issue of justice and fairness. This means that an increase of \$3,500 was budgeted and expected in 2021 and is appropriate.

What does all this mean? We have been in a deficit position within the General fund for several years, however we have been doing much better in our generosity with some very special gifts being given by friends affiliated with our church, but not members of the church. This is wonderful and greatly appreciated. We have also been doing well with our fundraising efforts, even though we had to cancel several events this past year. We know that many are doing their best to support the ministries of St. Paul's and we offer each of you a "thank you" for your continued support. We will continue to spend "appropriately" through the year as well. We do not waste your resources. Also, based on our 2019 Annual Report, there were 281 members of the church. Of that number, we have lost 3 members to death. That means, each member would be responsible for \$505.07 of the budget. However, we all know that there are far more inactive members whose support is less and there are others who cannot meet that goal. We are fortunate to have many generous members who have given more than this amount in 2019. We have 50 giving units that have given \$500.00 or more and 37 giving units that have given \$1,000.00 or more and 106 giving units that have given something of record in 2019. Thank you all. If you are able to give, please do. We will be working on an electronic giving option for 2021, especially for those who are distant.

# Worship Information

## **January 3rd — Epiphany Sunday**

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: Presented by Pat and Carl James in honor of their granddaughter Gabrielle's birthday.

OT: Isaiah 60: 1 — 6

NT: Ephesians 3: 1 — 12

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1 — 12

## **January 10th**

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: Presented by AY Hughes to the Glory of God.

OT: Genesis 1: 1 — 5

NT: Acts 19: 1 — 7

Gospel: Mark 1: 4 — 11

## **January 17th**

Flowers: The first vase is presented by Leon, Stephanie and Leah Prutzman in honor of Austin's 24th birthday.

Bulletins: Presented to the Glory of God.

OT: I Samuel 3: 1 — 20

NT: I Corinthians 6: 12 — 20

Gospel: John 1: 43 — 51

## **January 24th**

Flowers: The first vase is presented by Dean Beers in celebration of his parent's wedding anniversary on January 25th.

Bulletins: Presented to the Glory of God.

OT: Jonah 3: 1 — 5, 10

NT: I Corinthians 7: 29 — 31

Gospel: Mark 1: 14 — 20

## **January 31st**

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: Presented to the Glory of God.

OT: Deuteronomy 18: 15 — 20

NT: I Corinthians 8: 1 — 13

Gospel: Mark 1: 21 — 28

## **February 7th — Souper Bowl of Caring**

Flowers: The first vase is presented by the Family Trust Fund in memory of Lydia Hall.

Bulletins: Presented to the Glory of God.

OT: Isaiah 40: 21 — 31

NT: I Corinthians 9: 16 — 23

Gospel: Mark 1: 29 — 39

## **February 14th — Transfiguration Sunday**

Flowers: The first vase is presents by Leon and Stephanie Prutzman in honor of Leah's 14th birthday.

Bulletins: Presented to the Glory of God.

OT: II Kings 2: 1 — 12

NT: II Corinthians 4: 3 — 6

Gospel: Mark 9: 2 — 9

## **February 21st — The 1st Sunday in Lent**

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: Presented to the Glory of God.

OT: Genesis 9: 8 — 17

NT: I Peter 3: 18 — 22

Gospel: Mark 1: 9 — 15

## **February 28th — The 2nd Sunday in Lent**

Flowers: The first vase is presented by Max, Eli and Pastor Martin for Ellen's birthday on March 5th.

Bulletins: Presented to the Glory of God.

OT: Genesis 17: 1 — 7, 15—16

NT: Romans 4: 13 — 25

Gospel: Mark 8: 31 — 38

The consistory persons for the Month of January and the Month of February are Lisa Strohl and Tara and Terrance Field.

St. Paul's UCC of Indianland

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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

Please note that the next Courier for publication will be the **March 2021 newsletter**. Please plan your submissions accordingly and submit no later than **February 15th**. If there are any questions or concerns please call the office at **610-767-5751** or email them to **office@indianland.org**. **Thank you very much.**

**Traditional Worship Service — Sundays at 10:30 am — in person, on-line, FM transmitter (.25 mile radius from church) or via your telephone**

**Christian Education Hour — remains on hold as of now, weekly lessons on FaceBook**

**Praise Contemporary Worship — One in-person service only on the 2nd Sunday of the month resuming in February.**

Please send any prayer requests to [office@indianland.org](mailto:office@indianland.org) or call and leave them on our answering machine at 610—767—5751. We love to **PUSH**—that is **Pray Until Something Happens**.

**In case of inclement weather**, please tune into Channel 69, WFMZ TV or 790AM, WAEB—AM Talk Radio for cancellation or delay information.