



The Courier

St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Indianland

NOVEMBER 2025



Being With God

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:23-26. NKJV)

What are we looking for from our God? What expectations do we have for salvation, ours and others? Do we believe that God will only do what we ask and pray for? What does "with God" really mean? All very valid and perhaps terrifying questions for us to ask and think about. What exactly do we expect from God and why, or how did we get to that position? Some people, those who really don't know God, are expecting absolutely nothing from God. They figure what happens is what happens. No God would allow the things that occur in our world is their stance. We are better off on our own, taking care of what we have earned and learned. Some of the very challenging thoughts that people have and I would dare say, some professed Christians also have. What are we to do in these moments? Give up or go to God?

My response and reaction is certainly to go to God! Be with God! And the most difficult response — Wait for God! That takes faith, that takes patience, that takes courage, that takes a great deal from us on our journey and can be pain stakingly slow and frustrating. The disciples wanted to know — Who can be saved? Jesus' words from Matthew did not provide them any hope, as they understood them. I can honestly say that, at times, His words make no sense to me, yet BEING WITH GOD, helps ease the uncertainty, the pain and frustration, the anger, the hopelessness and so much more that I and many others feel. Yet God will not always do what it is I or you pray for. This is a reality and a frustration all wrapped up together. We expect God to be on our side, which God truly is. However, how do we see our life and our expectations for that life evolving with God? We might proclaim that "God was against me" perhaps through an illness, or even a loved one's death, or some other tragic or challenging event in our life. Yet I, because of Christ, can feel God's presence, even in the mix of this messed up world and life! Yes, in defeat we may retreat and run from God. Jesus reminds us to run to God!

We come to the close of another church liturgical year and begin Advent on the last day of this month! Emmanuel — God With Us! The gift of Jesus is coming and we are reminded to accept the gift in the midst of everything that is going on. How will we respond? With more anger and frustration, or with patience and anticipation of what God will be doing with us in the times yet to come. Our future with God, here on earth, carries no guarantee other than "God is near to all who call, who call from their hearts." (Psalm 145:18-19, NRSV) This my friends, is the answer for us, call on God to be with God!

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Faith Formation News

Adult Faith Formation Class

Learning and understanding what & how God wants us to live and share His love doesn't end at Confirmation. Even as we grow older and wiser our Faith is Re-Forming. The world has changed and as we read the Bible, how we see those words and communicate those words to others also will change.

On Sunday mornings a group of adults meet to understand how we as Christians may communicate God's LOVE to others. We have changed the title of our Sunday morning classes to Faith Formation and it could even be updated to Spiritual Formation. No matter how old or young we are, we may learn every day more about our Faith and our Walk with Jesus

The Adult class uses the Common Lectionary passages for study each week which are the same scripture passages Pastor Nuscher uses in his messages. **The class meets at 9AM in one of the classrooms in the Faith Formation wing.** Why not start the week with Jesus and change your walk each day?

Bible Study

We are continuing with The Chronological Bible Workbook. The Journey may be a bit slow but the information about our Jewish ancestors is eye opening. **We have moved our meeting place to the fellowship hall and meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month.** We have room and would like to invite more people to join us on this fantastic/learning experience. Each of us are finding there are things from the Old Testament we might have learned years ago but have forgotten and now understand how God was present in their lives. If you would like to join us on this fascinating journey, please see Beth Sikorsky. **Sessions for November will be on Wednesday, November 5th and 19th at 10:00am.**

Adult Educational Opportunity

On October 8, 2025, we viewed the 4th film in the God is Not Dead series, "We the People". We had 18 people in attendance. A light supper was offered with a variety of mini sandwiches, ice tea, apple cider, and many other tasty treats. The Christian Education Committee will be looking at an event for 2026. If anyone has any suggestions, please let Beth Sikorsky or any one of the CE Committee know.

Faith Formation Classes/Christmas Program

St. Paul's seems to be facing the same dilemma as many other churches are, our participation for our Faith Formation classes offered for both children and adults is shrinking. Our average children attendance for the month of September was 3.

Because of this dilemma, the Christian Education Committee has briefly discussed the Christmas program and will be making the decision at our next meeting. If you have any questions, please see Beth Sikorsky or a member of the Christian Ed. Committee.

News From The Pews

(continued from page 1)

It is not about the words that we offer in our prayers, or the scriptures we have come to know. It is about how God wants us to be with him, that is one of the many reasons Jesus came to save us. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:17, NRSVUE) Saved through him. Saved by God through Christ, the incarnate God. God with us in life, in death, and in eternity because of love for us, not hatred, not anger, not dismay, not fear, not ... so many more notes could be mentioned. Our God conquered the notes or the I can'ts we feel because of and through Jesus. Let us find the way to thank God for His love and grace upon us as we prepare for another Advent and Christmas. It may be very much the same as prior times or it could very well be quite different for us if we are with God, instead of feeling God just might be against me, or you!

Scripture can offer us so much more, yet God really wants us to just come, admit our mistakes, forgive one another as He will forgive those who ask for it, and then walk within God's laws and teachings to the best of our mortal ability. We are not going to be perfect, yet we have that expectation of so many others around us. From all levels of life we have expectations of what should be done and even as we have grown and matured, we may still have heard the words — You should have known better! Well maybe we did know better, yet, we still did what we did and paid whatever the price was. Jesus paid the price for our sins and God blessed us with grace and with life. Let us strive to live more of this life by being with God, intentionally and unintentionally, and not only during the worship moments in our lives. God is always presence, so we may come anytime and come as often as we need to be with God!

Friends, give it to God, for God can handle far more than we can. And then let us proclaim — "God is good, all the time!"

Pastor Martin

CPR/First Aid

A **CPR/First Aid refresher course** will be offered in Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, November 8th beginning at 9:00AM**. The course will **cost \$20.00** per individual and is being taught by Bryan Fritz. See Greg Glovas if you have any questions. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the church Narthex.

WOMEN UNITED FOR CHRIST SWEET ROLL SALE

If you are interested in ordering any sweet rolls for the holidays, please call Beverly @ 610-767-3634 now. Orders will be accepted up to Sunday, November 2nd.

Orders and payments are due for the sweet roll sale to Beverly Putt. The sweet rolls will be delivered on **Thursday, November 20**. The shipment is usually delivered in the morning. After sorting the orders, members may pick the rolls up. If you would like to pick your rolls up during daylight hours, please let Beverly know and you will be called after the sorting process. Rolls can also be picked up in the evening from **6 p.m. to 7 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER LIST

Current Need:

Robert Fritz	Brenda Usher	Kirsten Bickert	Dustin Miller	Sallie Weaver
Linda Hartzell	Donna Henninger	Joy Muffley	John Weaver	Marc Messinger
Joe Vandonya	Johnny	Sharon	Rachael	Tom Bitler
Linda Baumgartner	Logan Krick	Carol Samuels	Gloria Newhard	Robert Green
Carol and Angela	Bernard Newhard	Emmett Lavelle	Jen Budnick	Gladys Polgar
Robert Knot	Michelle	Audrey Blickensderfer		Kathy Heist
Mike Hartman	Terry Carlton	Mabel Bonner	Carol	Mike Nester, Sr
Kim Mickey	Jimmy Hurstman	Mike Miller	Chrissy	Alyzah Borger
Robbie Moore	Nancy	Zachary Long	Sergio Nino	Lynda Vesely
Kay Bolus	Carol Williams	Danielle Bowser	Robert Moyer, Jr.	Jeanette Haram
Harold Frable	Jeff Reihoff	Charles Wagner	Maria Miller	Kayla Bartholomew
Nadia Cospier	Julie Gelfuso	Jessica Harris	Dan Bradley	Rita Huber
Karen Creasy				

Longer Term Need:

Debbie Budinetz	Darryl Wentz	Jessica Smith	Tina Rehrig	Corey Doolan
Janet Erickson	Marion Heffelfinger	Pat James	Mary Berger	Nancy Green
Brandon Snyder	Franklin Dorshimer	Joe & Deb McGeary	Mary Beatrice	Gary Kresini
Cole Ruch	Kevin Reilly	Nigel Mease	Ryan Holmes	Amber Steffie
Cindy Hogman	David Jones	Nancy Kovalchick	Becky	Lisa Dotson
Russell Blakeslee	Deborah Peterson	Dawn Stattler	Karen Bet	Bob Bakross
Michelle Brosious	George Borger, Jr.	Marion Bossard	Sharlene Weaver	Shirley Cressman
Lori Rader	Susan Zachary	Ashley Henninger	Peter Rosales	Louise King
Stan Butz	Kim Rey	Jim Miller	John Hine	Noah Iucci
Darlene Hock	Anne Harrity	Melanie Hoderusky	Joan Cottier	
Joanne Peters	Rose Lanus	Dorian Arnwine	Margo Roberts	Robert Custard
Vicki Eltz	Jeannie Yehl	Linda Becker	Laura Rannella	Gail Bauer

Those who mourn:

The family and friends of Jen.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

People & Places

- 1 — Morgan McCracken
- 2 — Lillian Field
- 5 — Sherri Heffelfinger
- 8 — Kirsten Bickert
- 11 — Ruth Doll
Timothy Fegley
Randy Trapp
- 13 — Harry Rhodes, Jr
- 17 — Beverly Putt
- 18 — Robin Beers
Cynthia Hantz
- 19 — Mikayla Bickert
- 20 — Karlee Farley
- 21 — Susan Lilly
Dixie-Leigh Bowes
- 22 — Joy Muffley
- 23 — Lisa Strohl
- 26 — Kensley Rodney
- 29 — Marissa Rodney

Sensational 70's Club

- 18 — Robin Beers
Cynthia Hantz
- 22 — Joy Muffley

Exceptional 80's Club

- 17 — Beverly Putt
- 21 — Susan Lilly

Outstanding 100's Club

- 11 — Ruth Doll

Wedding Anniversaries

- 02 — Ellen & Martin Nuscher —
29 years
- 11 — Gwen & Shane Hershman —
37 years
- 14 — Cassandra & Robert Langley —
10 years
- 21 — Phyllis & Gary Geiss —
66 years



OUR MISSIONS

Noisy Offering for November: Allentown Rescue Mission

MISSION:

The Allentown Rescue Mission rescues, rehabilitates and restores men in crisis across the Greater Lehigh Valley.

Founded in 1900, we are a Gospel Rescue mission serving with compassion and the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

HISTORY:

1900: Founded by a Miracle

"Ten years ago I was called to be a Rescue Mission Worker. I said I could not do it. 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."

This is what Obadiah Becker, the Allentown Rescue Mission's founder, said at a National Federation of Gospel Missions convention in 1908.

"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 told God 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."

For the last 125 years, the Allentown Rescue Mission has addressed the changing face of homelessness, offering Christ-centered compassion to men in crisis throughout the Greater Lehigh Valley.

WHAT WE DO:

Since 1900, the Allentown Rescue Mission has rescued, rehabilitated, and restored men in crisis across the Greater Lehigh Valley.

Our approach is both practical and spiritual, meeting immediate needs while addressing root causes through the power of Christ.

Men in our care have access to a variety of services to meet their physical, mental, and spiritual needs.

THREE CORE PROGRAMS:

Rescue: Emergency Shelter — Men in crisis receive warm meals, hot showers, clean clothes, and respite from the hardships of the streets.

Rehabilitate: Transformation Program — Clients are given life skills, workforce skills, and Bible classes to help them reclaim their lives.

Restore: Clean Team Workforce — Employees perform a variety of jobs, earn wages, and save money as they transition back into the community.

OUR MISSIONS

November Mission: Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering is the third of the United Church of Christ's four annual special mission offerings. This is historically collected on the first Sunday in October.

The UCC Office of Public Policy and Advocacy in Washington D.C. is funded in part by gifts to Neighbors in Need. The goal of the UCC Washington D.C. Office is to make a better world possible by addressing the systemic injustices we face as a country and as part of the world.

The UCC Washington Office was called into being by a resolution at General Synod 10 in 1975. This predecessor body to Justice and Local Church Ministries, then called the Office for Church in Society, was created to assume a leadership function for social action concerns in the UCC and to provide resources to the national, conference and local churches. Foremost among the tasks assigned to the office was identifying, analyzing and forecasting emerging social issues which call for the attention of the denomination.

Today the UCC staff in Washington D.C., in partnership with UCC staff, Conferences, Associations, congregations and individual UCC members, continues this mission by monitoring and seeking changes in legislation at local, state and federal levels through a variety of coalitions and working groups. The policies that guide this work are crafted by UCC members who gather for General Synod to pray, reflect and discern a faithful response to God's call through resolutions and pronouncements on the issues facing our world.

As with all designated donations through St. Paul's UCC of Indianland, you may write checks made payable to the church and place them in your offering envelope circling the word benevolence on the Other line. Thank you!

During the summer of 2023, an average of 172 children participated daily in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programs at various sites in and around Missouri's Ferguson-Florissant School District.

The programs, created by Unleashing Potential, a St. Louis-based organization providing educational opportunities to children in underserved communities, were made possible through grants from the United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering. The special mission offering, focused on supporting justice work, is traditionally collected on World Communion Sunday.

"Because of Neighbors in Need we were able to offer out-of-school programming this summer, supplementing our existing after-school programs," said Jennifer Wood, manager of Unleashing Potential's corporate and funding gifts.

Opportunities for children

NIN funds also made it possible for the organization to extend its reach beyond elementary school, adding programming for middle-school students as well.

Timmy, a sixth grader, was one of those children. According to Wood, Timmy wasn't sure at first what to expect when he walked through the doors of Immanuel UCC in Ferguson, Mo., where his mother had enrolled him in a "GPS: Geo Power Squad" class that was being held at the church. He quickly discovered, though, that he not only liked learning how software and hardware worked together, but that he also had a knack for writing a script for a new game on a Micro Bit — a pocket-sized computer designed for student instruction.

Meanwhile at the Challenger Learning Center St. Louis, another student, Luna, was tapping into her inner rocket scientist this summer, working collaboratively in creating a mini rocket. While the rocket didn't quite make it to the moon, the prototype did soar, as did Luna's belief that she did have the potential to become a scientist one day.

"It is so important for these children to be encouraged to explore and to believe that they could be scientists or engineers," said Wood. "Neighbors in Need has been a big blessing to us and the children."

Lay, Life and Work

!! While turning back the clocks, don't forget to check out all the upcoming events at St. Paul's

Thank you to all who joined us for **Dream Come True and the Chili Dinner**. Both events were a wonderful time of fellowship and spending time with friends and family! St. Paul's was able to donate \$1,500 to DCT while also fundraising for the church. A special thanks to Becky's for the opportunity to participate with this community event. LLW will also be discussing tithes from the chili and chicken dinners and penny party at the next meeting.

The **Penny Party** will be held **SUNDAY November 9th starting at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall. Doors will open at 1pm** and the kitchen will be open for lunch. Along with the penny party there will also be a bake sale, tricky tray and 50/50 drawing. Please invite friends and family to fellowship and support the LLW committee for the afternoon!! It has been awhile since the first penny party, but it was fun and anyone can participate.

College Care Packages will be **delivered in late November**. The collection box will be in the Narthex and the LLW will include a gift card. This is a thoughtful way to let the college attendees know we are thinking of them and cheering them on as finals are completed.

Family Game Night will be held on **Friday, November 21st from 6-8pm**. Join us for light refreshments and games and feel free to bring a game or food to share. This is also a nice time to fellowship and visit with our church family!!

The **Filling Sale will be in time for Thanksgiving**. A **2 pound container will be sold for \$8.00**. The containers are safe to freeze and can be thawed before baking to enjoy for Thanksgiving or a quick side dish at dinner. A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex or orders may be called into the office. **Orders are due by Sunday, November 16th for pick up on Sunday, Nov 23rd after church** and anyone interested in helping to make filling may speak with AY or Pastor. We will be making the filling on Friday, November 21st beginning at 9:00am.

Finally, a **Community Thanksgiving Dinner** will be on **Thursday, November 27th, 11:30a-1p**. This is a free meal and donations are welcomed. Please invite friends and family to join us. Donations of turkeys and desserts are welcomed and anyone available to help will make the day go smoothly. Reservations are welcomed although not necessary.

The next meeting for Lay, Life and Work is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 12th at 7:30pm**. All are welcome to join us as the schedule for 2026 will be a topic for discussion.



Worship Information

November 2nd — All Saints Sunday

Flowers: The first vase is presented by The Family Trust in memory of Emma Mack.

The second vase is presented by Tara, Terrence, Brennan, James and Jules for Lilly's 13th birthday.

Bulletins: The bulletins are presented by Max and Eli Nuscher for their parents' wedding anniversary today.

OT — Daniel 7: 1 — 3, 15—18

NT — Ephesian 1: 11 — 23

G — Luke 6: 20 — 31

November 9th

Flowers: The first vase is presented by The Nuscher Family in memory of Richard Vesely.

Bulletins: None Presented.

OT — Haggai 1: 15b — 2:9

NT — II Thessalonians 2: 1 — 5, 13 — 17

G — Luke 20: 27 — 38

The consistory for November is Larry Carbonell and Logan Carbonell.

The next Communion service is Wednesday, November 26th — Thanksgiving Eve and Sunday, November 30th — 1st Sunday of Advent.

Confirmation classes will be held on Sundays November 9th and 23rd at 7:00PM.

November 16th

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: None Presented.

OT — Isaiah 65: 17 — 25

NT — II Thessalonians 3: 6 — 13

G — Luke 21: 5 — 19

November 23rd — Christ the King Sunday

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: The bulletins are presented by Lisa and Lee Strohl in honor of granddaughter Kensley's 14th birthday.

OT — Jeremiah 23: 1 — 6

NT — Colossians 1: 11 — 20

G — Luke 23: 33 — 43

November 30th — 1st Sunday of Advent

Flowers: None Presented.

Bulletins: The bulletins are presented by Lisa Strohl in memory of parents Bill and Helen Kratzer.

OT — Isaiah 2: 1 — 5

NT — Romans 15: 11 — 14

G — Matthew 24: 36 — 44

More News from the Pews!

MINISTRY OF CONCERN

St. Paul's has had a discretionary fund for the Pastor to use for many years now. Funds are available for people who demonstrate great need while facing an emergency situation. It is solely up to the Pastor whether to provide funds or not. Over the years we have been able to help with utility payments, heating expenses, food items and medical expenses. The Ministry of Concern fund has been funded by donations from the congregation and others. The fund had been depleted and Consistory and Pastor Martin are asking each of you to consider a special donation to the Ministry of Concern fund in order to continue helping people who are in need. A fund transfer was authorized by the Church leadership to add to the Ministry of Concern fund so that others may be helped. Thank you for your support of the Ministry of Concern fund which allows us to show Christ's love to many over the years and thank you to those who have made recent contributions which has amounted to **\$2,160.00** through 2024 and **\$910.00** through **Sunday, October 5th. With the current Government issues at the State and National level, it is expected that more people will be reaching out for assistance. Please do what you are able to help all of our neighbors.**

Pastor Martin

KEYSTONE Conference

November 22, 2025 - 9:30 am - Online meeting only

Welcome to the 2026 Budget Meeting of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ - the first business meeting of our historic new Conference!

We will gather online for the purpose of approving the 2026 budget and approving committee appointees.

Quorum of 150 must be met. Churches will have the following delegates:

Churches with up to 100 members will have two lay delegates

101-300 members will have three lay delegates

301-500 members will have four lay delegates over

500 members will have five lay delegates

All authorized clergy will also have vote.


CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On **Sunday, November 30th following the worship service**, we will be having our annual **budget and election of Consistory members** to serve into 2026 and beyond meeting. This is also the 1st Sunday of Advent and we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Communion during the service. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting as we have some financial challenges ahead of us. All ideas are welcome and all active members are expected!

A WORD of THANKS

I am writing this thank you to all who were generous and kind enough to help St. Paul's celebrate Pastor Appreciation. I greatly appreciate all of you and your gifts, cards and of course the delicious cake that we shared after worship. Thank you all again, and may God's blessings be with you all as well. Pastor Martin

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00A — Faith Formation In Person and Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot All Saints Sunday	3	4 4:00 to 5:30P — Hoagie Pickup 7:00P — Elders	5 10:00A — Bible Study	6	7	8 9:00A — First Aid/CPR Training
9 7:30A — Contemporary Praise Service 9:00A — Faith Formation In Person and Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot 2:00P — Penny Party	10	11	12 7:00P — Worship and Arts 7:30P — Lay, Life and Work	13	14	15 8:00A — Bus Trip to Sight and Sound December Newsletter Articles are Due!
16 9:00A — Faith Formation In Person and Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot	17	18	19 10:00A — Bible Study 7:00P — Consistory	20 6:00P to 7:00P — Sweet Roll Pickup	21 9:00A — Make the Filling 6:00 to 8:00P — Family Fun Night	22
23 9:00A — Faith Formation In Person and Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot Filling Pickup	24	25	26 7:00P — Thanksgiving Eve Service with Communion	27 11:30A to 1:00P — Thanksgiving Day Dinner	28	29 9:00A — Decorate the Church for Christmas
30 9:00A — Faith Formation In Person and Online 10:30A — Worship Service — on-line, in person or in the parking lot Congregational Meet-			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, please contact Pastor Martin Nuscher on his cell phone, 484-707-7006 or by email to pastor@indianland.org . Church website is www.indianland.org . Thank you.			

St. Paul's UCC of Indianland

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Please note that the next Courier for publication will be the **December 2025 newsletter**. Please plan your submissions accordingly and submit no later than **November 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), streamed live on Facebook

Faith Formation Hour — Weekly lessons will be on Facebook at 9:00am. Formal in person class gatherings for all ages resumes at 9:00am.

Contemporary Praise Worship — in person only service on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:30am.

Please send any prayer requests to 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**.

Celebrating Our 277th Anniversary — 1748 — 2025