



God Is Not a Republican or a Democrat

As we approach Election Day, I want to reflect on an important truth: **God is not a Republican or a Democrat.** God cannot be confined to a political party, and no political party has a monopoly on God's love, grace, or truth.

One of the difficult challenges of being a minister is navigating the tension between faith and politics. I often hear people say, "Don't be political." I understand that desire, and I do my best to honor it. I would never encourage anyone to vote for a specific party or candidate. My responsibility is not to tell you how to vote, but to help us consider how our faith calls us to live.

And yet, the Gospel is clear. Jesus calls us to welcome strangers, feed the hungry, care for the vulnerable, and be agents of peace. Matthew 5:9, the well-known Beatitudes state, "*blessed are the peacemakers*. In other scriptures like Matthew 25:35, Jesus reminds us, "*I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was hungry and you gave me food.*" These are not partisan ideas; they are central to our Christian faith.

But here is the challenge: **the core of these issues eventually becomes political.** How we welcome immigrants, address hunger, care for those in need, and pursue peace involves decisions made by our communities and our government. We cannot always separate our faith from the public issues that affect our neighbors.

As people of faith, we may disagree about the best ways to address these challenges. But we are called to treat one another with dignity, seek understanding, and remember that our Christian identity is greater than our political identity. As Micah 6:8 reminds us, we are called "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

In a time when political divisions can feel overwhelming, perhaps one of the most faithful things we can do is pray—not simply for our preferred candidates or outcomes, but for our nation, the men and women who courageously run for office, our communities, and one another. We can pray for peace where there is conflict, unity where there is division, understanding where there is disagreement, and kindness where there is anger.

Please join us for a Prayer Vigil on Tuesday, November 3, from 7:00–8:00 PM at St. Paul's. This will be a time of quiet contemplation, reflection, and prayer for our nation and its people.

We also invite our Sunday School children and others in the congregation to help create signs and banners that we can put around the church with messages such as:

- Pray for Peace
- Pray for Unity
- Pray for Understanding
- Pray for Kindness

These banners will serve as simple but meaningful reminders of the values we hope to embody as people of faith.

Whatever our political differences, we share a common calling: to be people of love, compassion, and hope. May our prayers and our actions reflect that calling, and may we remember that **our faith is bigger than our politics.**

Jack Frost Parade

Thursday, October 15th

St. Paul's is again entering a float in the Jack Frost Parade and we'd love your help! This year's float will be Noah's Ark themed.

- * Be part of the team decorating the float
- * Walk along with the float to hand out goodies to people along the parade route

Interested in helping? See Mindy Does or sign up on the sheet on the Mission Table.

Donations Needed: We go through a lot of toss candy during the parade. Donations of small wrapped candies (tootsie rolls, dum-dums, air heads, starbursts, small packs of gummies or candies, "Child's Play" assorted bag) would be very much appreciated! Candy donations can be left on the Mission Table.

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Miracle League Trick or Treat

Wednesday, October 28
Set up 3:30; Trick or Treat 5-8

This is our 15th year of hosting a table at the Miracle League Trick or Treat night. Donations of snack bags (*chips, pretzels, etc*), wrapped miniature candy bars, Rice Krispy treats, etc are needed.

Thank you for your continued support of this outreach to the children of the Miracle League who, because of their health conditions, don't get to experience trick or treat in their own neighborhoods!

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St. Paul's UCC Community



Sunday, October 25
2:00 – 4:00 pm

This is our 6th year hosting this event for our community. Each year we get increasingly more community members stopping by for treats! We had a great turn-out of decorated cars (and tables) last year and we're hoping to get even more this year!

To reserve your spot for a decorated car/truck, table or other space, please use the Sign Up Sheet on the Mission Table or contact Mindy Does.

If you are able to host a table during the event but are not able to decorate one, no problem! Let Mindy know as we have some previous years' decorations that we can use to decorate a table for you.



Shoofly Pie Sale

Enjoy a delicious homemade Pennsylvania Dutch favorite! Shoofly pies are available to order by signing up in the narthex or calling 484-629-4233 by Sunday, Oct. 4th. **Pick up is on Saturday, October 10 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church.** The cost is \$7 each. Don't miss out! Reserve your pie today!

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Sandwich Sale

The Women of St. Paul's are continuing their popular Ham & Cheese Sandwich Sale! Each hearty sandwich is made with thin-sliced ham, and cheese on a fresh bakery kaiser roll (mustard packet included). The cost is \$4.00 each. The deadline for orders is Sunday, October 4. **Pick up is Wednesday, October 14 from 11 – 1 p.m. & 5-6 p.m.** Sign up in the narthex or call 484-629-4233 to order.

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Need Prayer?

St. Paul's Prayer Partners help to provide hope, spiritual support and help to bring a deep sense of comfort to someone going through a difficult time. If you would like to become a prayer partner, or have prayer requests/updates, please contact Sally Jane Payson by email @ sallyjane1717@ya*hoo.com



LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Jean James, Lynne Schlager, Alison Delabar, Peggy Moser, Betty Stolz, John Stolz, Ronald Lobach, Keith Beil, Lynnel Groller, Kenneth & Peggy Kohler, Consistory, churches, nation and leaders, U.S. Military, many refugees, and persecuted Christians.

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Give Hope!



Our local families in need benefit greatly from your donations to the Northampton Food Bank. **Items needed: canned meat (tuna, chicken, ham), canned soups, canned fruit and vegetables, boxed potatoes, pasta and sauce, peanut butter & jelly.** Non-perishable items and monetary donations can be dropped off at church or the church office. Thank you for caring and sharing!

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Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Support St. Paul's every time you shop at Redner's! Simply save your receipts to help us receive a percentage back through their Save-A-Tape program. **Our last check totaled \$383.82!** Whole receipts can be placed in the Redner's receipt bag in the narthex or dropped off at the church office. Thank you for helping turn everyday shopping into a blessing for our church!

Harvest Bingo

Join us for a fun-filled day at Harvest Bingo on Sunday, October 4. Doors open at 12 noon and bingo begins at 1:30 in the fellowship hall. A basket raffle and bake sale will also be part of the event. Not playing bingo?

You're still welcome to stop by and enjoy some delicious food and baked goods available for purchase. Donations of baked goods can be dropped off at the church on Saturday, October 3 from 9-11 am. For bingo tickets, please contact Marge Oberly at 484-629-

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Moravian Village Charity Fair

Moravian Village is having their fourth annual Charity Fair October 24, 2026, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Main Building at 526 Wood Street, Bethlehem, PA. This event is unique because 100% of the income generated from the sale of items created by residents of the Village will be donated to the resident's charity of choice. The charity John and Kathy Dech have selected is Heifer Project International. They will be selling handcrafted Christmas ornaments, shaker boxes, shaker trays, cutting boards, cheese slicers, handcrafted checker boards, ceramic chess sets, bread knives, wall plaques, puzzles, candle holders, vases, gnomes, lazy Susans and other items too numerous to mention. Shoppers have found that items are reasonably priced and make wonderful Halloween and Christmas gifts.

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Giant Gift Cards

If you shop at Giant, please consider participating in a great fundraising opportunity for St. Paul's through Giant's "Cash for Causes" program. **St. Paul's earns 5% of the face value of all the gift cards sold.** Gift cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and can be used like cash at any Giant location. If interested in purchasing gift cards, please contact Cindy Swankoski 484-560-6542.

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Aluminum Tabs

Sally Jane Payson is coordinating the aluminum tab collection for those of you who participate. The collected tabs will be delivered to the Miller Blood Bank, which gathers them in support of the Boy Scouts. Aluminum tabs from beverages and soup/pasta cans can be placed in the box located in the narthex. Thanks for supporting the Scouts!

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Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 1

**St. Paul's UCC
Financial Report
August 2026**

Current Income:	\$20,595.17
Benevolence:	689.00
Building & Maintenance:	2,266.25

Total Income: **\$23,550.42**

Current Expenses:	\$ (868.85)
Utilities/Insurance	(949.17)
Pastor's Expense:	(9,668.78)
Lay Staff Expense:	(4,064.19)
Benevolence:	(465.50)
Building & Maintenance:	(1,673.00)
Mission Fund (Mission Trip):	(3,419.64)
Vanco Fees (E-Give):	<u>(47.38)</u>

Total Expenses: **(21,156.51)**

Net Income (Gain): **(2,393.91)**

E-Give Offerings: **\$936.24**





October:

10/04 – Ronald Lobach
10/11 – Ann Snyder
10/18 – Lynne Schlager
10/25 – Cindy Swankoski

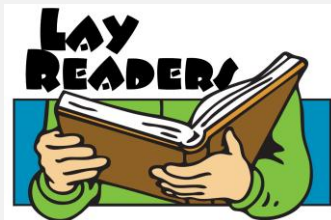


October:

10/04 – Mike McGuinness
10/11 – Ronald Lobach
10/18 – Christine Hostetter
10/25 – Cindy Swankoski

The cost to sponsor the Altar flowers is \$30.00 and the Bulletins is \$10.00. Please sign up in the narthex or call the church office @ 610-261-2910 if you would like to sponsor.

Note: There are two spaces available to sign up on the altar flower chart in the narthex. You are encouraged to sign up for any date even if someone else already has.



October:

10/04 – Glenn Spiece
10/11 – Sally Jane Payson
10/18 – Lori Balliet
10/25 – Mark Bauer





10/03 – Donald & Donna Biggs
10/10 – Timothy & Sharon Fronheiser
10/16 – Betty & John Stolz
10/20 – Lee & Christine Hostetter
10/22 – John & Sue Demczynsyn
10/25 – Kenneth & Peggy Kohler



10/02 – Mindy Does
10/03 – Maurice McNeely
RJ Reichard
10/05 – Ronald Lobach
10/06 – Larry Oberly
10/07 – Thomas Unger
10/08 – Paula Spiece
10/10 – Kim Reichard
10/11 – Erika Mikovits
10/17 – Keith Beil
10/19 – Dennis Michael
10/22 – Michael Gabovitz
10/23 – John Stolz
Jay Sands
10/27 – Lynne Schlager
10/30 – Shawn Miller





- Oct. 4** – 10:30 – Worship w/Communion/NIN Offering-Deadline
for Shoofly Pie & Ham & Cheese Sandwich
Orders – Harvest Bingo – Doors Open @ 12 Noon
Bingo Begins at 1:30 p.m. (FH)
- Oct. 5** – 7:00 – AA (Parlor)
- Oct. 6** – 7:00 – Book Study w/Pastor Joel (Annex)
- Oct. 7** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 10** – 11-5 p.m. – Pick Up Shoofly Pies (FH)
- Oct. 11** – 10:30 – Worship/Deadline for November
Newsletter Articles
- Oct. 12** – 7:00 – AA (Parlor)
- Oct. 13** – 7:00 – Book Study w/Pastor Joel (Annex)
- Oct. 14** – (11-1 p.m. & 5-6 p.m.) Pick Up Ham & Cheese Sandwich
Orders (FH)
– 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 15** – 7:00 – Jack Frost Parade
- Oct. 18** – 10:30 – Worship
- Oct. 19** – AA (Parlor)
- Oct. 20** – 6:30 – Consistory (Annex)
- Oct. 21** – 7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 25** – 10:30 – Worship
(2-4 p.m.) St. Paul's Truck or Treat
- Oct. 26** – 7:00 – AA (Parlor)
- Oct. 27** – 7:00 – Book Study w/Pastor Joel (Annex)
- Oct. 28** – 6:30 – Miracle League Trick or Treat
7:00 – Scouts (FH)
- Oct. 31** – Halloween (Turn Clocks Back Tonight! Daylight Savings
Time Ends Sunday, Nov. 1)





***St. Paul's United Church of Christ
19th & Lincoln Avenue
Northampton, PA 18067***

Pastor – Rev. Joel Biggers
Director of Christian Ed. – Melinda Does
Office Administrator – Christine Hostetter
Custodian – Shea Killeen
Church Office Phone – 610-261-2910
E-mail – stpaulsnorth@gmail.com
Website – www.stpaulsnorthamptonpa.org

Pastor's Office Hours: Thursday & Friday from 9:00-5:00 PM. Pastor Joel can be reached by email joelwbiggers@gmail.com or by calling 732-853-4809.

Church Office Hours: Mon., (8-12 PM) Tues., Wed., Thurs., (8-3 PM)