

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John Ward-Diorio

Lector: 8:15 Ron Chronister

10:30 Dennis Plymette

Ministry of Music

Organist: Sarah Myers

Minister of Music: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Service

Head Ushers: Rick Ayers

Ushers: 8:15 Ron and Donna Chronister

10:30 Jonathan Nase and Colleen Eichman

Darryl and Winifred Wentz

Greeters: 8:15 Belva and Leo Garman

10:30 Jen and Craig Martek

Acolyte: 8:15 Julie Scott

10:30 Allie Moyer

Children's Sermon: 10:30 Deb Cashman

Nursery: The Nalepka Family

Flower Delivery: Colleen Eichman

Fellowship Time: Jim and Amy Paulus

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 15, 2009



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

626 Williams Grove Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717/766-7931

Web: saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net

John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey You are Welcome Here!

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2009

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES
THE GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
THE PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
Organ "Prelude to God's Word"

Koury

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Call and Response) From Psalm 16

*THE HYMN NO. 573 "Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Correcting God, help us to remember that we can wander far off track, far away from Your desire for how we are to interact with You and serve others on Your behalf. Help us to listen for Your "corrections," as they are spoken through prophets or demonstrated by those who fully live into Your Way in the world. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

There are certain things we do, say, or believe that have been passed down to us by our families, congregations, communities and our wider culture, often in good faith. We do not always look at all our practices and ask if they are really consistent with what we understand God is calling us to do and be. Rather than seeking a more consistent way, and changing when appropriate, we opt to continue doing things the way they have been done. Let us join together in the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to You. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of Your Name. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Minister: God receives our apologies and repentance, and has assured us that our sins are forgiven.

All: Let us receive and pursue the new lives, which Jesus showed were possible for all of us. Amen.

SACRED CONVERSATIONS ON RACE:

Ever wish you could talk out loud about race and racism rather than just pretending it's not an issue in our community? Or maybe you've never thought about race much, or even at all. The Penn Central Conference and the greater United Church of Christ is encouraging congregations to participate in Sacred Conversations on Race in 2009. During the month of March, St. Paul's members will have the opportunity to engage in a four session conversation on our feelings, emotions, and actions around race and racism. Rev. John and Kathy Williams will facilitate these sessions. It is not too late to attend the last two sessions on Thursday, March 19 & 26 from 7-8:30 PM, to explore issues of racism, discrimination, and inequality. If you are interested, or would like more information, contact Rev. John at the church office or Kathy Williams at 766-0532. This is one opportunity we can take to respond to those voices who say: "If you choose, you can heal me." Let us seek to bring the welcome, the equality, the compassion and love that God has entrusted to us to share, to those the world has pushed to the outer margins. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Common Area. Thank you.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS: The UCC sends out Daily Devotionals via email. They are quite good. Anyone who would like can sign up for them. You can receive them at home or work or both. They are a wonderful lift for each day, inspirational, challenging, thought provoking and faith building. They will be putting out special Daily Devotionals for Lent. If you would like to sign up to receive them, please use the following link. Check off the Daily Devotionals section. You are welcome to check off any and all of the other e-offerings as well. They are quite good. Any questions, please see, call or email Pastor John. Thanks. P.S. We will be trying to paste this on our Website (www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org) as well so you could try going there to access the link. http://act.ucc.org/site/PageServer?pagename=UCC_Signup

THE EASTER FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEET is on the bulletin board in the Common Area. You will have the choice of ordering an Easter Lily (\$ 7.25) or a six bulb Tulip (\$ 6.25). They will be placed in the Chancel area on Easter Sunday, April 12th. Last date to sign-up is Sunday, March 22nd with payments due by April 5th. Checks should be made out to St. Paul's United Church of Christ with a notation that the payment is for a lily or tulip. If you have any questions, please call Kay Coldren at 697-1927.

ST. PAUL'S ON A MISSION PEANUT BUTTER EGG SALE! A sign-up sheet to order and to help with the Egg making is posted on the Bulletin Board. Eggs are a \$ 1.00 each or 13 for \$ 12.00. The Eggs will be ready for pick-up Palm Sunday, April 5th. All proceeds go to Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Any questions, please call Brenda Kern at 796-0939.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Both urgency and joy pervade the work of **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**. There are many challenges this offering addresses caring for God's treasured people in the United States and around the world. Where do we start? Will it make a difference? Marian Wright Edelman, a lifelong advocate for children said, "We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we cannot foresee." The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering combined with other groups who help people in need, works to provide safe, clean water in drought-stricken areas; provides seeds to grow food and the tools with which to tend them in areas where people often go hungry; and improve the quality of schools in rural areas by training teachers on the job, providing clean water and sanitation to students, building new schools, and bolstering school libraries. These are just a few examples of what **you** can do through giving to One Great Hour of Sharing on March 22, 2009 for God's treasured people.

PRAYER SHAWLS: We are dedicating more Prayer Shawls this morning. They have been created by our members and filled with prayers for comfort, healing and peace. We have shared these Shawls with many people who have found them to be a great blessing. You will now also see some draped over the ends of the pews. These are for you to use during Worship if you should feel the need for extra support. You may also take one with you as you have need, or take one for someone you know who could benefit from its blessings. If you take one, please fill out one of the brown cards and place it in the offering plate, or bring it to the office. We are keeping a book of who received the Shawls so we might continue to keep them in our prayers. May God's blessings, as they have flowed through the hands of our "creators," offer God's peace and love far and wide.

PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE IS BLESSED to be having a visit from the **CHURCH LEADERSHIP OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN THE RHINELAND** over Palm Sunday Weekend. This includes the President of the Denomination and his wife; the Vice-President of the Denomination; the Head of the Ecumenical Department and Church journalists. You are invited to share in this important event by attending a banquet at First Reformed United Church of Christ, 40 E. Orange St, Lancaster on Monday, April 6th at 6pm. There will be a chance to talk with our ecumenical partners and entertainment will be provided by the Harrisburg Association Brass Choir. The cost of the banquet is \$11 per person to be paid to First Reformed. Please call Tiffany at First Reformed at 717-397-5149 with your reservation no later than March 30th. If you have any questions, please call Rev. Joseph Hedden, chair of our German Partnership team directly at 717-273-422.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. All children 12 and under are invited to attend. It will be held rain or shine. Bring a friend! If you have any questions, please call Joan Moyer at 766-3325 or email at joanmoyer@msn.com.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI

PRAYER OF BLESSING (Unison)

May God's grace be upon this shawl...warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May this mantle be a safe haven...a sacred place of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed Be!

10:30 SERVICE

SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world.**

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so.**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING (page 66)

Exodus 20:1-17

THE READING OF THE PSALM (page 498)

Psalms 19

THE RESPONSE

One: God is still speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING AND MESSAGE "Revisioning"

John 2:13-22

*THE HYMN NO. 582 "O God of Earth and Altar"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (Unison)

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.**

THE OFFERTORY

8:15 Organ	“Offertory on Tender Thought”	Peterson
10:30 Choristers	“We, the Children, Lift Our Voices”	Hopson

*THE DOXOLOGY (#780)

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

We bring our offerings, O God, not to buy Your favor, but to express our gratitude, not to support an institution, but to further Your mission. We support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with Your will. May we be zealous in Your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace Your word in our everyday living. Amen.

*THE HYMN NO. 195 “On a Hill Far Away” (The Old Rugged Cross)

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER

One: Lead us, O God.

**All: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.**

*THE BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE	“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”	Kendall
--------------	----------------------------------	---------

*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.

We welcome warmly all who are visiting with us. Please register your attendance on the Friendship Form so that others may greet you in the name of the Living Christ. The person at the end of the pew should place the finished sheet in the offering plate.

References:

The Prayer of Confession is from A New Zealand Prayer Book, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, 1997, Harper, San Francisco.

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Led By Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1996, United Church Press.

“The World Peace Prayer” is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, and is also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine Sisters.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by the Paulus Family
In Memory of Loren Rider.

The white rose on the Altar is in Memory of John Chipriano who passed away Sunday, March 8th – please keep John's family in our prayers, particularly his wife Mary Jane Chipriano.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Rhoda Rupp who has severe pain in her back, **Rena Smith** who is not feeling well and **Dave Petko**, former colleague of Tim Kern's, has a recurrence of lung cancer.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of March 15-21, 2009

TODAY	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services/Blessing of Prayer Shawls
	9:00 am	Choristers
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	7:00 pm	L.A.S.-Hymn Sing/Choir Collaboration-Mech. Pres.
MON	6:30 pm	Color Guard (FH)
TUES	5:30 pm	TOPS
	6:00 pm	Consistory Dinner (FH)
	7:00 pm	Consistory Meeting
	7:00 pm	MLC Board Meeting (Rm. 13)
WED	6:00 pm	Hand Chime Choir (Rm. 5)
	6:30 pm	Youth Choir (S)
	7:15 pm	Chancel Choir (S)
THU	7:00 pm	Sacred Conversations on Race
FRI	6:30 pm	Scout Pack Meeting (FH)
SAT	7:30 am	MLC-CPR Training (FH)
	8:30 am	Confirmation Class leaves- Hoffman Homes Workday
SUN Mar 22	8:15/10:30 am	Worship Services
		New Digs Collection & One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

ST. PAUL'S HUNGRY YOUTH thank you for donating to the 30 Hour Famine. 15 youth fasted February 27 and 28 for 30 hours to empathize with those who experience hunger on a regular basis. \$461 was raised (thank you!). \$300 is being sent to World Vision to feed the hungry in other countries. \$161 was donated to New Hope Ministries. In addition to fasting, the youth learned about world hunger, made popsicle stick crosses, walked a labyrinth, volunteered at St. Francis of Assisi's Soup Kitchen, prayed for hunger to be solved, and also played games, watched videos and enjoyed each other's company. Thank you for supporting the youth of this church!

REBUILDING TOGETHER – ST. PAUL'S TEAM. Looking for a hands-on mission project in the Harrisburg area? Consider volunteering for National Rebuilding Day through the local affiliate, Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg. RTGH's goal is to provide a warm, safe and dry environment for low income homeowners. Typical work includes repairing and/or installing railings, smoke alarms, steps, gutters, handicapped ramps, etc. Volunteers should be comfortable using tools but major plumbing and electrical work is done by licensed volunteers. This year's work day is **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. Ron Flory has agreed to "Captain" a team of volunteer's. Can we make it an all St. Paul's Team? Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the common area. Any questions please see Ron Flory.

NEW DIGS MINISTRY - Recently an article about the New Digs Ministry was in our Epistle. New Digs is a local ministry that collects and stores household items needed to move into an apartment. The items are used to help limited income individuals with assistance in furnishing a new apartment. Furniture, kitchen appliances, bedding, pots, pans, towels and wash cloths are just a few of the items accepted for redistribution. A more complete list is posted on the bulletin board in the Commons. The Adult II Sunday School Class has adopted New Digs as one of their many extended mission ministries. Collections will be made on a quarterly basis of donated items which will be delivered to New Digs. The first collection will occur on **March 22nd**. If you have items to donate please bring them to church that Sunday and place them on the stage area in the Fellowship Hall clearly marked for New Digs. For larger items please call Dave Hall (697-2087) and arrangements will be made to pick them up and transport them to New Digs.

POLLYANNAS will hold their meeting on Tuesday, March 24th at 1 pm at Bonnie Plymette's house instead of Rhoda Rupp's. Any questions, call Bonnie at 697-2938.

THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2009 ALTAR FLOWERS is on the bulletin board in the Common. Please neatly fill in the information as you want it in the Worship Bulletin. The price for the altar flowers is \$32.00.

THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2009 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office door. The cost for a child is \$29.00. There are still spots open so please fill them in so each child is sponsored for the entire year.

ST. PAUL'S HUNGRY YOUTH thank you for donating to the 30 Hour Famine. 15 youth fasted February 27 and 28 for 30 hours to empathize with those who experience hunger on a regular basis. \$461 was raised (thank you!). \$300 is being sent to World Vision to feed the hungry in other countries. \$161 was donated to New Hope Ministries. In addition to fasting, the youth learned about world hunger, made popsicle stick crosses, walked a labyrinth, volunteered at St. Francis of Assisi's Soup Kitchen, prayed for hunger to be solved, and also played games, watched videos and enjoyed each other's company. Thank you for supporting the youth of this church!

REBUILDING TOGETHER – ST. PAUL'S TEAM. Looking for a hands-on mission project in the Harrisburg area? Consider volunteering for National Rebuilding Day through the local affiliate, Rebuilding Together Greater Harrisburg. RTGH's goal is to provide a warm, safe and dry environment for low income homeowners. Typical work includes repairing and/or installing railings, smoke alarms, steps, gutters, handicapped ramps, etc. Volunteers should be comfortable using tools but major plumbing and electrical work is done by licensed volunteers. This year's work day is **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. Ron Flory has agreed to "Captain" a team of volunteer's. Can we make it an all St. Paul's Team? Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the common area. Any questions please see Ron Flory.

NEW DIGS MINISTRY - Recently an article about the New Digs Ministry was in our Epistle. New Digs is a local ministry that collects and stores household items needed to move into an apartment. The items are used to help limited income individuals with assistance in furnishing a new apartment. Furniture, kitchen appliances, bedding, pots, pans, towels and wash cloths are just a few of the items accepted for redistribution. A more complete list is posted on the bulletin board in the Commons. The Adult II Sunday School Class has adopted New Digs as one of their many extended mission ministries. Collections will be made on a quarterly basis of donated items which will be delivered to New Digs. The first collection will occur on **March 22nd**. If you have items to donate please bring them to church that Sunday and place them on the stage area in the Fellowship Hall clearly marked for New Digs. For larger items please call Dave Hall (697-2087) and arrangements will be made to pick them up and transport them to New Digs.

POLLYANNAS will hold their meeting on Tuesday, March 24th at 1 pm at Bonnie Plymette's house instead of Rhoda Rupp's. Any questions, call Bonnie at 697-2938.

THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2009 ALTAR FLOWERS is on the bulletin board in the Common. Please neatly fill in the information as you want it in the Worship Bulletin. The price for the altar flowers is \$32.00.

THE SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE 2009 CHILD SPONSORSHIPS is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office door. The cost for a child is \$29.00. There are still spots open so please fill them in so each child is sponsored for the entire year.

THE ADULT II SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS has decided to spearhead a number of projects around the region. One way we want to show support for the stranger in our midst is by putting together Welcome Kits for the Refugee Resettlement Program at Church World Services in Lancaster. You may have already seen tags in the Commons, which designate items to be packed into the Welcome Kits for refugees who are resettling to Central Pennsylvania. These kits contain items like soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, band-aids and more. The class is planning to package 50 Welcome Toiletry Kits this spring. Please consider helping us by taking the picture of one (1) item, two (2) items or more from the display and bringing it to the church by April 1st. The items will then be packaged (wrapped in a towel), and delivered to Church World Services in Lancaster later in April. Sunday School classes or families may decide to take an entire kit and divide it up among the members or may decide to take all of one item. Let us know if you know where to get certain items at a bulk discount. Be creative in your spirit of donation! Thank you for your help with this project. Questions on the project can be addressed to Kathy Aumiller at 580-6292.

LITURGTICAL DANCE SEMINAR - As the final program of the Lenten Arts Series produced by St. Paul's UCC and Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, a Liturgical Dance Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 28 at St. Paul's in Mechanicsburg. Presented by Kathryn Sparks, this workshop is for all ages, genders, and ability levels. It will run from 9 AM - 3PM. The schedule is as follows:

- 9:00-9:15 Gather
- 9:15-10:00 Educational event on dance and its contribution to the church
- 10:00-10:30 Questions
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:00 Beginner dance class/warm up working with scriptures or anthem - beginning our piece for the next day
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch (provided)
- 1:00-2:45 Putting it all together - rehearsal for worship in sanctuary
- 2:45-3:00 Closing

Participants may choose to come to just the morning session or stay the whole day and be part of a group to dance in worship the next day. There will be a fairly simple piece learned which would be created in consultation with a pastor and the music director. On Sunday morning, March 29, Ms. Sparks will be at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian for the 8:15 service and the MPC participants from the Saturday workshop will be a part of their worship service. At 10:30 AM she will come to St. Paul's and the same presentation will take place with the workshop participants of St. Paul's. Come join us for this opportunity to praise God in yet another way! Contact the offices at St. Paul's (766-2601) or Mechanicsburg Presbyterian (697-0351) to sign up.

THE ADULT II SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS has decided to spearhead a number of projects around the region. One way we want to show support for the stranger in our midst is by putting together Welcome Kits for the Refugee Resettlement Program at Church World Services in Lancaster. You may have already seen tags in the Commons, which designate items to be packed into the Welcome Kits for refugees who are resettling to Central Pennsylvania. These kits contain items like soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, band-aids and more. The class is planning to package 50 Welcome Toiletry Kits this spring. Please consider helping us by taking the picture of one (1) item, two (2) items or more from the display and bringing it to the church by April 1st. The items will then be packaged (wrapped in a towel), and delivered to Church World Services in Lancaster later in April. Sunday School classes or families may decide to take an entire kit and divide it up among the members or may decide to take all of one item. Let us know if you know where to get certain items at a bulk discount. Be creative in your spirit of donation! Thank you for your help with this project. Questions on the project can be addressed to Kathy Aumiller at 580-6292.

LITURGTICAL DANCE SEMINAR - As the final program of the Lenten Arts Series produced by St. Paul's UCC and Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, a Liturgical Dance Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 28 at St. Paul's in Mechanicsburg. Presented by Kathryn Sparks, this workshop is for all ages, genders, and ability levels. It will run from 9 AM - 3PM. The schedule is as follows:

- 9:00-9:15 Gather
- 9:15-10:00 Educational event on dance and its contribution to the church
- 10:00-10:30 Questions
- 10:30-11:00 Break
- 11:00-12:00 Beginner dance class/warm up working with scriptures or anthem - beginning our piece for the next day
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch (provided)
- 1:00-2:45 Putting it all together - rehearsal for worship in sanctuary
- 2:45-3:00 Closing

Participants may choose to come to just the morning session or stay the whole day and be part of a group to dance in worship the next day. There will be a fairly simple piece learned which would be created in consultation with a pastor and the music director. On Sunday morning, March 29, Ms. Sparks will be at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian for the 8:15 service and the MPC participants from the Saturday workshop will be a part of their worship service. At 10:30 AM she will come to St. Paul's and the same presentation will take place with the workshop participants of St. Paul's. Come join us for this opportunity to praise God in yet another way! Contact the offices at St. Paul's (766-2601) or Mechanicsburg Presbyterian (697-0351) to sign up.