



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801
Office 570-278-2954, Mon., Wed. & Thu. 8:10am to 2:30pm
Click on link to email St. Paul's: stpaulsmontrose@epix.net
Click on link to go to our Website: <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>
Click on link to go to our Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

Mission Statement for St. Paul's: To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

Dec. 5 - 11, 2021

In person worship or you can watch live streamed on YouTube. Go to St. Paul's website <http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org> and click this red button  on the front page, which takes you to our YouTube page.



COUNTRY STORE IS THIS SATURDAY

Get ready, because we need your help! It's Country Store time again. It will be Saturday, December 4th from 9 to 3 as part of Christmas in Montrose. Our tables this year will include bake sale, raffle basket and evergreen swags.

Our North Pole kitchen will be in full swing. Volunteers needed for set up on Friday at 4:30pm December 3rd. Come join the fun, help at a table or just browse and buy.

Interfaith Christmas Gifts

Gifts should be valued at \$30. Gifts are to be unwrapped with the tag attached. All Gifts must be brought to the Church by **Dec 5th**.

Altar Flowers this week are from Barbara & Tom Undercoffler In Memory of our mothers Mary & Kathryn.



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:00.

All are welcome. Ask your friends and neighbors to join us for this beautiful, moving remembrance of Jesus' birth.

Christ Church at 4:30 and St Marks at 6:30.

Our **Annual Memory Luncheon** takes place on Sunday, December 12 at noon following the service. A free lunch sponsored by Stop the Stigma gathers friends to remember and honor any loved ones in recovery or lost to addiction and those grieving any loss during the holidays. Come be with those who understand what you feel. No registration required. If St. Paul's parishioners will each bring a "brunchy" potluck dish for the meal, we will have a feast.

This Week's Lay Ministers:

Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Barb Undercoffler & Betty Smith

Officiant: Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Camera & Broadcast: Andrew Wurth

Lector: Cathy Hammons

Readings for this week

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Psalm: Canticle 16

Epistle: Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Christmas Flowers

The altar always looks so beautiful decorated for Christmas Eve with the poinsettias, and then they are available to be taken home to enjoy. This year, we plan to order the flowers based on the number given in memory or honor of someone. Flower envelopes will be provided in church on Sunday. If you wish to contribute towards the Christmas flowers, please indicate the name of the person(s) you want to memorialize or honor and include a check. We expect the cost per poinsettia to be around \$30.



Coats for Our Community has a final distribution of free, warm winter coats on Wednesday, December 15 and Thursday, December 16 from 9-6 at St. Paul's. We need someone in the Parish Hall during those hours while people choose coats. If you have a spare hour or two, please contact Dan Graham or John Finlon to spell the chiefs.

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers: Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Johanna Masters, Jeannine Ball, Sandy Nagy, Ray Arcario, Addie Evans, Cathy Hammons & Carol Marker.

St. Paul's Altar Flowers: If you wish to reserve, a Sunday please sign-up on the sheet at the back of the church. Then fill out an Altar Flower Card. Please use one card for each request, enclose your check for \$46.00 with the card in the envelope provided, and place it in the offering plate or send it to the parish office prior to the week that you are doing flowers.

For those wishing to supply your own flowers please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church and fill out an altar flower card indicating you will do your own flowers. Thank you!

Birthdays for December: Dan Graham 12/4, James Cain 12/9, Vera Dunn 12/13 & John Warriner 12/31.

Our thanksgivings: We give thanks for those who celebrate their birthdays this week. *O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. Amen.*

We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. *Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys, which you have promised through Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with them this day and forever. Amen.*



1 Donations You can scan the QR Code. Or go to St. Paul's Website and click the Donate Button for online giving. You can mail your tithes & pledges to the church office at 276 Church St., Montrose, PA 18801

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact: you can call the parish office during office hours. After hours call Deacon Liz 212-222-8109.

10 Photos this week.

First Sunday of Advent, November 28th

O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

THE GOSPEL- the Son of Man coming

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." (*Luke 21:25-36*)

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

Deacon Liz's View from the Pulpit

This time of year we have responsibilities that compete for our attention. They may originate with family, friends, or even ministry. We are bombarded with them and it is easy to become overwhelmed.

We have provided two printed resources for advent devotions. A calendar which gives us a thought for the day and a devotional for short daily reflection based upon the Way of Love, a national church initiative. Lynne emailed the #adventword resource as well. My hope is that you will take a few minutes from your busy schedule every morning to engage with any or all of these materials. They will provide a spiritual focus for the day before you tackle the worldly projects which tend to overwhelm us as the holiday approaches.

Take some time this Advent for prayer and reflection in order to prepare your heart for the arrival of the Lord. It is worth the effort to add one more thing into your day.

I also wanted to share some information regarding the significance of blue vestments. The Sarum Rite was the original basis for the liturgy of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer and where blue was used for the color of Advent. It was often specified that it be an indigo to represent the darkness before the birth. Early art shows church leaders in ornately decorated blue robes. Shades of blue symbolize royalty, the coming of the King, hope, the night sky before the dawn, the sea before creation, and Mary. Early dyes were made from nature. Some historians suggest that

northern European dyes were made from berries that produced blue while southern Europe was able to make purple dyes.

I wonder if there is any correlation for the different color usage? And did you know that black was used as the color in the middle ages? According to the 19th century book, *Notes on the history of the liturgical colours*, black was in use by the 12th century and lasted until the 15th century. Styles come and go, even liturgically.

Fr. Bill's Weekly

It is the First Sunday of Advent. The First Sunday of the Church's Calendar Year C.

We are today Saturday 27th recording the service at 10:30am and sending the 'virtual' service out tomorrow for all to follow. It is a service dedicated to my father, whose anniversary is on the 27th.

We are celebrating the First Sunday of Advent. The color is purple, the color of kings and royalty, the color of hope. Advent is a penitential time, a time of waiting, anticipation, prophecy, and promise. Four weeks when we share the lives of Mary, Joseph, Anna, Joachim, Elizabeth, and Zachariah.

In Advent we read of prophets and prophecy, of Israel's salvation, renewal and return to the ways of old. It speaks of kingship and a coming Messiah, with stars and symbols and a return to the old ways. So, it is today with Jeremiah who speaks to the people about the 'branch of David' the fulfillment of the promise and the restoration of the house of Judah.

Paul writing back to the Thessalonians, tells them to be thankful and to love their lives with joy. There is a cleansing coming. For Christ has brought righteousness and with it a certain blamelessness. It is a letter of hopefulness, a letter that looks to the future, a letter that says that Christ has changed everything.

The Gospel from Luke 21 is about the 'end times'. Jesus speaks of the signs that will herald his second coming. They will be as clear as the coming of the summer. He teaches his disciples to read the signs, the signs of the coming kingdom. They must be alert, forever watchful and they must pray and be ready.

It is tempting to look around our world and see signs of the end times in our own world and time. Yet, Jesus' words truly apply to each of us as individuals. Each of us await the coming of Christ into our life. Each of us must search for that kingdom that Jesus spoke of; each of us needs the Son of man in our life.

Advent awakes us to our need for a Messiah. It reminds us of why we follow, care, about one man's teaching. Each year we wait for this Christmas Nativity Story, because we need it. Not only do we believe, we glory in the birth of this child; we want him to grow; we want that call 'Come Follow me!'

Set out with us for four weeks, on this journey, just like the Wise Men following that Star. Let it be a prayerful journey. Amen.

THIS WEEK

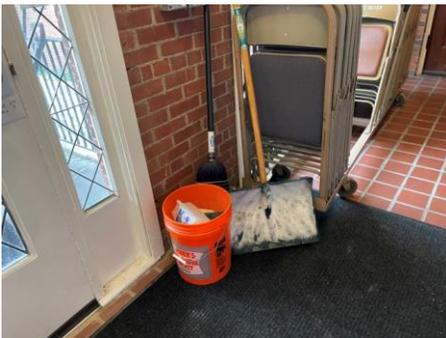
November 28th Service

The November 7th live-streamed 10:00 Deacon's Mass was led by Deacon Liz. Lynne Graham made announcements, John Warriner was the lector and Joyce Printz played the organ Prelude, Organ Meditation and Postlude, along with four hymns. As with all our live-streamed services, you can watch it live or any time on YouTube.



Salt Buckets placed Near Doors

Well, it's that time. Salt buckets, snow shovels and brooms have been added next to the ramp door and the Chestnut Street door. If you are there and need them, please feel free to use.



Soup Night at St. Paul's

The year is just zooming by and December 1st, was the first Wednesday of the month and soup night again. Pots of steaming, homemade soup were lovingly created and cooked and brought to church by St. Paul's soup makers. Due to the time change, winter hours will be 3:30 to 5:00. Not surprisingly, this month's selections were Turkey vegetable (made from all those Thanksgiving turkeys), and ham and bean. We are always looking for new soup makers. St. Paul's will reimburse for any ingredients.

Late November in Susquehanna County

"I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields as it kisses them so gently." The reds and yellows of summer have turned to the grays and blues of winter. Thanksgiving was of course on Thursday the 25th. We had our first real snow on Sunday, the 28th, right before church – the latest in three years. By Tuesday, the area outside of town was snow covered. The Christmas Store is this Saturday, snow or not. See you there.

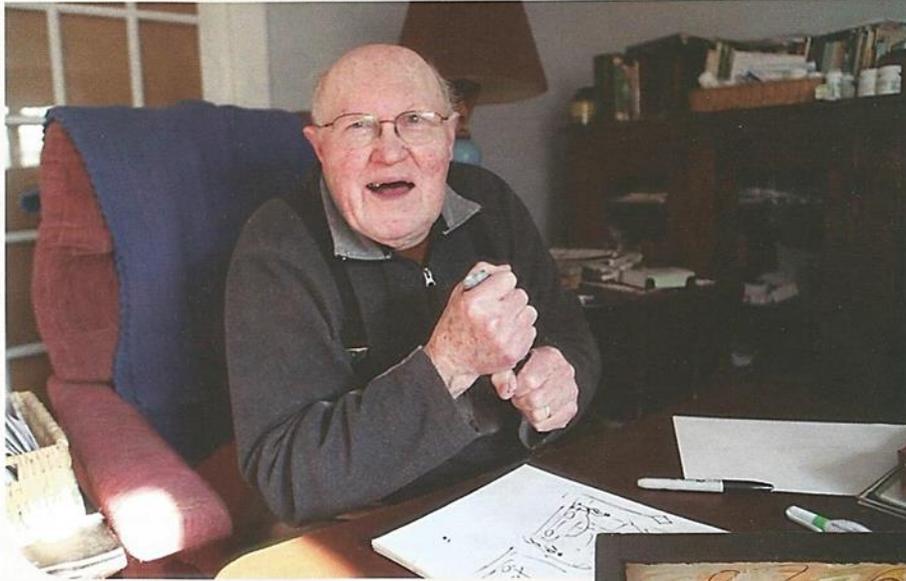


A Smiling Face - 2020



Article on Joe Welden

This year's *Community Foundation of the Endless Mountains Magazine*, Vol. 21, has a nice article on Joe Welden. You can find a copy at the Slanted Art store on Church Street.



Joe Welden

The memories Joe Welden's friends consistently recount are of his sweetness, kindness and relaxed easy going manner. It is not the persona we typically ascribe to persons of enormous talent. But perhaps it can explain his longevity and the surge of loving loss that rose up throughout the community when he died at age 94 on May 2, 2020.

Joe's jazz piano performances, scheduled professional or spontaneous and improvised, and his art inspired by music and musicians seemed to flow from him effortlessly and generously. One visitor to his home recalls, "Just being there when he played the piano was fun."

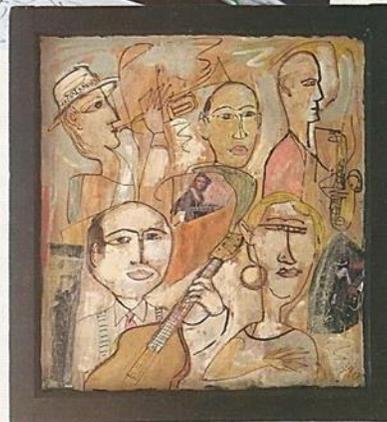
The community has responded to Joe Welden's loss with a creation of its own: a scholarship fund in his honor at Pink Arrow Arts. It is intended to celebrate and inspire the creative spirit within us all.

Joe's reflections on his art in 2019:

"Many years ago, living in Philadelphia I became interested in modern art as there were many galleries and museums there to frequent. I also had some formal instruction for a very short time at the Print Club.

After I retired from postal work I started to renew my interest in painting and drawing. Having been a part time musician, I tend to use subject matter that is related to Jazz music and its environments, although I do not use music themes in my work entirely.

I like to work in acrylics, inks and various textures to achieve a certain kind of personal result. I have very much to learn and am grateful that I am able to do art at this time in life. I find it a very positive, healthful and entertaining avocation."



"Hear Music" by Joe Welden