

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

December 11 - December 17



276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801


Office 570-278-2954, Monday-Thursday 8:15am-3:00pm

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>

To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

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.



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

Church Closures

Please turn your radio dial to WPEL 96.5 FM. We will announce any closure of our church service on that station.

View from the Pulpit: Father Bill

Awake from your sleep

Advent One has a second reading from Romans 13. Paul is writing to the Christians in Rome. His words are rather frightening, probably written late into the night, on a hard wooden table by lamplight.

If Nero (63AD) has not started his persecution of the Christians yet, then it is close. Paul's warning 'to awake from their sleep,' could have been addressed to Israel by any of the prophets. For that matter, it can apply to each of us today, this First Sunday of Advent.

Advent is full of these readings in the lectionary. Note the words that Paul uses: time; salvation; believers; near; darkness; light; Jesus Christ.' The season is full of repentance, change, expectation and coming events. Paul tells the Christians that the real darkness and danger lies in the blindness they themselves create through drunkenness, debauchery, hate, jealousy and quarreling.

We have to take something from this passage, and it is surely that we too can be blind. Constantly we are asked by Christ to awake to a new reality, that of putting our own interests to one side and embracing the needs of others. There is a blindness that we inflict on ourselves, says Paul, when we take the path into the darkness of sin and vice and away from the moral compass that God gives us.

Advent speaks of that 'few' who have remained faithful, stepping out of the darkness of the Old Testament to prepare the way for the Messiah. We light a candle to point the way to the 'Coming of Christ' in our lives. By the time of Paul's writing the Messiah has come, taught and been rejected. Now Paul wants the Christians to wear Christ like a badge or a robe. "Put on Christ" he says.

Imagine! Imagine if we too took Paul literally and 'put on Christ!' Maybe that was what Christ meant by his 'second coming!' Maybe we are 'the second coming!'--If we indeed copied what Jesus did and really did reach out to others that would be precisely what we are.

Take advent seriously. "Awake from your sleep! Put on Christ!" Amen.

Fr. Bill

AdventWord - 2022

Forward Movement has announced the 2022 reflection words for AdventWord, a global online advent calendar and community of disciples. For nearly a decade AdventWord has inspired followers of Jesus who wish to add an accessible prayer practice to their daily routine during this holy season.

Daily meditations and images—inspired by a prompt word selected from the daily lectionary readings—will be released at <https://adventword.org/en/sign-up-adventword/> beginning Sunday, November 27.

Participants can sign up to receive this daily message, in English and Spanish, by email or by following AdventWord on social media. For all who are technically inclined, please sign up to participate!

Many followers join the creativity each year by sharing their own personal reflections across social media using #AdventWord. Participants respond with photos, written responses, crafts, drawings, poems, found art, and other creative expressions inspired by the day's selected word.

"This year we enlisted volunteer community members to help with the selection of prompt words from the daily lectionary readings," said Richelle Thompson, managing editor at Forward Movement. "The online gathering of dozens of AdventWord community members was an inspiring way to kick off the planning for 2022 and a strong reminder that AdventWord is community-driven."

The prompts for 2022 #AdventWord are:

November 27 - Walk	December 7 - Winnowing	December 17 - Majesty
November 28 - Together	December 8 - Breathe	December 18 - Purify
November 29 - Teach	December 9 - Fire	December 19 - Sign
November 30 - Mountains	December 10 - Flourish	December 20 - Hear
December 1 - Make	December 11 - Messenger	December 21 - Obedience
December 2 - Ready	December 12 - Wilderness	December 22 - Choose
December 3 - Unity	December 13 - Stranger	December 23 - Restore
December 4 - Delight	December 14 - Beloved	December 24 - Birth
December 5 - Rain	December 15 - Thirsty	December 25 - Emmanuel
December 6 - Welcome	December 16 - Traveler	

The #AdventWord Images and meditations can be experienced through AdventWord.org, direct daily emails, as well as on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Meditations will also be available on www.adventword.org.



View from the Pew:

Every minute someone leaves this world behind. Age has
nothing to do with it.

We are all in "the line" without knowing it.
We never know how many people are before us.
We can not move to the back of the line.
We can not step out of the line.
We can not avoid the line.

So while we wait in line:

Make moments count.
Make priorities.
Make the time.
Make your gifts known.
Make a nobody feel like a somebody.
Make your voice heard.
Make the small things big.
Make someone smile.
Make the change.
Make love.
Make up.
Make peace.
Make sure to tell your people they are loved.
Make sure to have no regrets.
Make sure you are ready..."

- By Marianne Baum, Submitted by Sandy Seeger

We would love for you to be included!

Article submissions (photos, community news items, or a personal or faith story) are due every Wednesday. This is YOUR newsletter, and all congregants are invited to share their stories and photos. Please email your items to Kate at stpaulsmontrose@epix.net or John Warriner at jdwarri@me.com; post an item to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 276 Church St. Montrose, PA 18801 on Facebook; or drop a note in the offering plate.

Sundays Service

DEC
11



Readings for this Week: This Week's Ministers:

First Reading: Old Testament:

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm: Canticle 15

The Epistle: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Barb U., Carol L. & Carol M.

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Lynne Graham

Organist: Joyce Printz

This week's Hymns:

Rejoice! rejoice believers

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Thy kingdom come! on bended knee



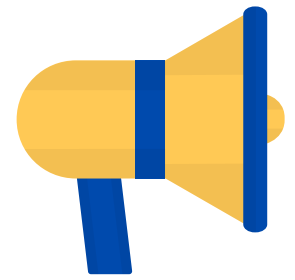
This week's Gospel according to Matthew:

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Happenings and Announcements



Greening of the Church

On Dec. 18 after Church We will be decorating the church with the greenery after the service that day. Many hands make light work so please stay after to help!

Pilgrimage to the Palestine of Jesus:

On Sunday, December 11th following our potluck brunch, Mother Rebecca and Mother Liz will offer a presentation on their recent study pilgrimage to Jerusalem and their course at St. George's College. The program will include photos and stories from their trip and insights into the landscapes and narratives of Jesus and the three Abrahamic faiths that share this common region. Please bring a dish to share for brunch.



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Charlotte Eckert, Nancy Finlon, Jeannine Ball, Sandy Nagy, Addie Evans, Carol Marker, Ellen Ely, Rev. Janet Watrous, Vanessa Smith.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call Mother Liz 212-222-8109.



This Months Birthdays:

Daniel Graham 12/4, James Cain 12/9, Vera Dunn 12/13, John Warriner 12/31



This Months Anniversaries:

No Anniversaries this month; If you would like your Anniversary or your Birthday added to this list, please call Kate in the office.

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.

Are you Safe Church compliant?

Maintaining your required trainings and clearances is vital because it helps us to keep all the people in our congregations safe. Episcopal Church canons require all people who have contact with children in an Episcopal Church to take online trainings to learn best practices, appropriate boundaries, and who to contact if they need help or suspect child abuse. Both Episcopal Church canons and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania laws require everyone who has contact with children and those with any sort of leadership position in the church to obtain background checks.

If you are a clergy person, lay employee, vestry member, volunteer who works with children, or a keyholder in the church, there are steps you need to take to be in compliance with Pennsylvania law and the Episcopal Church Canons.

The learning modules and Safe Church Training site have been recently updated. Learn more about what you need to do in order to be compliant and to keep your church safe. Contact Kate Aukema in the office if you have any questions or concerns about Safe Church compliancy.

Kate will be contacting those whose compliancy status is about to expire to remind them that they must complete the modules to renew their status. It only takes about an hour to complete the modules for renewal.

Please, help us to keep our congregation safe.

Thank you

Mother Liz

Susquehanna County



Volunteer for Coat Distribution today!

Call John Finlon or Dan Graham

Distribution Dates

St. Paul's Montrose: Dec. 21-22

Last Week's Service and Events

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT- DECEMBER 4

Second Sunday of Advent - December 4th, 2022

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

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

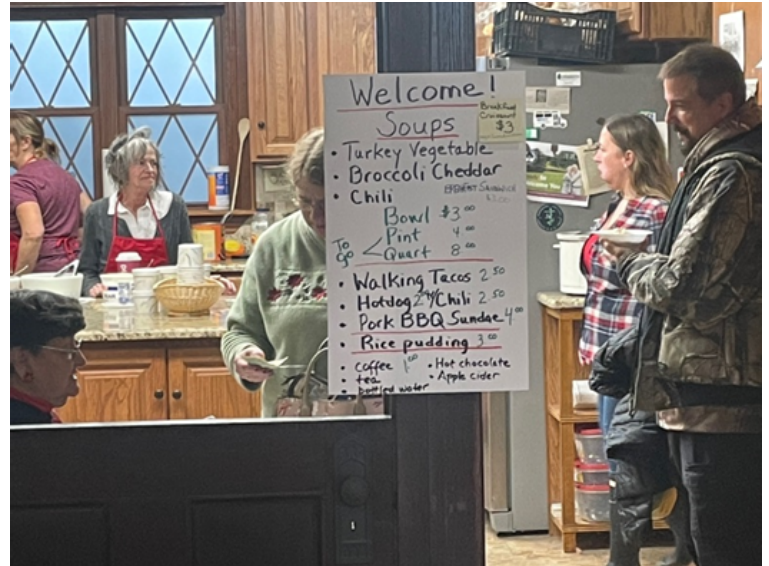
The December 4th live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did the announcements and John Warriner read as lector. Joyce Printz played the organ. The service included four hymns along with the Prelude and Postlude. Mother Liz blessed the sleeping bags for the homeless. The Undercofflers provided coffee hour. As you know, our live-streamed services can be watched live or any time on YouTube. Just go to our webpage and hit the red button.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where the Lord, our God, may go!



CHRISTMAS STORE

On Saturday, December 3rd, Montrose celebrated its annual Christmas in Montrose. As always, St. Paul's was an active participant in the holiday festivities. Our North Pole Kitchen, with head elf Martha Cobb, had a plethora of hot soups and dishes including: turkey vegetable, cream of broccoli, chili, breakfast sandwiches, walking tacos, hot dogs, rice pudding, barbeque pulled pork, hot chocolate, and coffee, etc. Our bake and raffle tables were visited by many who came inside for a hot lunch. There was a farmer's market in the Celtic Room. Thanks to everyone who helped.





Soup Day

On Wednesday, December 7th, St. Paul's had its monthly Free Soup day. It's a ministry that has become well known in the area. Vegetable Beef and Bean were the Soups du Jour with extra Chili left over from the Christmas Store. We are always looking for volunteers to make soup, help warm and serve it, or prepare the bags with cookies and rolls. It's fun and rewarding and the comradery is great. The next soup night is January 4th and Come and join us.





Christmas Wreaths

The wreaths have been put up on our doors signaling that St. Paul's is ready for the Christmas season.

Israel Talk

On Sunday, December 11th, after church, Mothers Rebecca and Liz will do a presentation of their trip to Israel this fall. Please bring a dish for a potluck lunch and pull up a seat.



Remember When – December 19, 2020

A big, heavy snow hit us on Friday night December 18th 2020 and snowed until Saturday. It was our biggest snow of the year. We started to dig out on Saturday afternoon and church was canceled for Sunday.

EARLY DECEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“It is December, and nobody asked if I was ready.” There’s been a solitary bald eagle on Wyalusing Creek on 706 all summer. He hung around for Fall and watches you as you drive to town. Again, more orange sunrises – the dogs wake up with the sunrise and when I let them out, I get to see many. It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Montrose. The town lights are up, and decorations are appearing on houses. Don’t forget to get some Loch's Pennsylvania Maple Syrup from Springville as a nice Christmas gift for those who don’t live here. Good stuff. It’s made from Susquehanna County Sugar Maples. We are settling into winter here in Susquehanna County.

