

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

January 8 - January 14



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 Pew:

Small Town Beauty

I've lived in many places and visited many others. The military is wonderful that way. I've been exposed to a life of curiosity and adaptation. The place that has my heart and always has me going back, is a small town called Montrose. Yes, our Montrose. I get to appreciate it more as I travel. This is the one place that always feels like home. To me, home is not the physical place we reside, it's not the roof over our head. It's the place our heart resides. Every time I come, I smell the pine trees and the sap dripping from them. I see my family and friends who feel like family. There's something beautiful and serene about a small town. The sounds are different. Rumbling engines of construction vehicles at every turn (unlike any place I've ever seen), birds chirping in the morning (the most beautiful sound to wake up to), the farm and all the wonderful smells that are radiating from the endless fields of grass, crops, and farm animals. It's a magical place and it's because my heart belongs there.

- Lindsay Golden

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

Jan
1



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Old Testament:

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms: 29

The Epistle: The New Testament:

Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Mary & Ben Zalewski

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: John Warriner

Organist: Jeanette Davis

This week's Hymns:

Shall we gather at the river

Christ, when for us you were baptized

On Jordan's bank, the Baptists cry

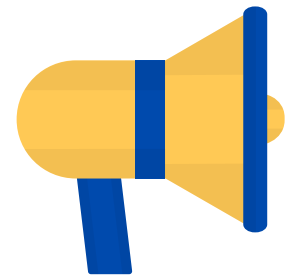
O love, how deep, how broad, how high



This week's Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Happenings and Announcements



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting for this year will be on January 15 after Church around 11:30. All are welcome!



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:

Charles Cesaretti 1/2, Karen McAbee 1/4, Molly Brunner 1/16, Anne Shafer 1/16, Bill Rathbone 1/18, Nathaniel Syle 1/20, David Calby 1/24, Marsha Jones 1/26



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.

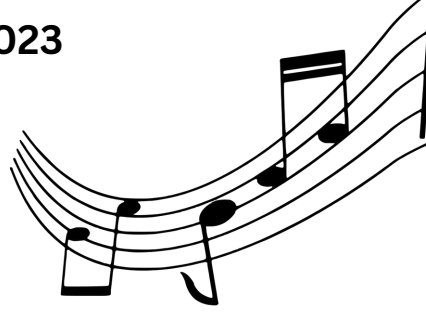
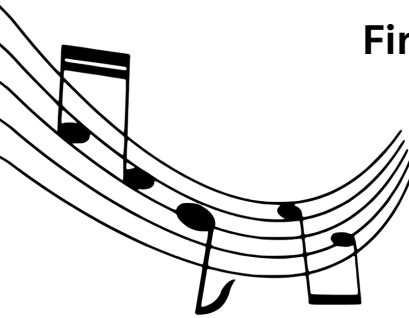
Please, help us to keep our congregation safe.

Thank you

Mother Liz

Last Week's Service and Events

First Sunday After Christmas – January 1, 2023



O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem
Come and behold Him
Born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him
Christ the Lord!

The January 1st live-streamed 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham did the announcements and John Warriner read as lector. Due to illness, there was no organist but there was a hymn. 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.

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother
and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace



Merry Christmas From the St. Paul's Family



Christmas Eve Service

On December 24th at 7:00 pm, St. Paul's had its traditional Christmas Eve service. The weather was iffy and cold, the streets were snow-covered and we had to close the front doors to keep the heat in.





We Three Kings - A St. Paul's Tradition

Following the Christmas Star these last two weeks, the Wise Men have slowly made their annual trip up from the back of the church on the various window sills. When church ended this Sunday, they had made it to the heat blower next to the organ. The creche is in sight!

Anna Warriner Graduated

John and Gaby Warriner's daughter Anna, just finished her master's degree in high school counseling at Rosemont College in Philadelphia. When you see her at church, tell her "good job!"



Winter Solstice

While the Weekly Highlight was on vacation last week, on Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 4:48 p.m., the Winter Solstice arrived. The sunrise was beautiful that morning. Winter is formally here now, coming in with snow and below freezing temperatures -- although with the weather this week, it seemed like fall again.

Soup Day

On Wednesday, January 4th, St. Paul's had its monthly Free Soup day. It's a ministry that has become well known in the area. However, always trying something different, for a special New Year's treat, Mac and Cheese with Hot Dogs was the meal du jour. 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 February 1st. Beef Vegetable or Potato Soup is on the menu. Come and join us.



Where Do Those Coats Go All Year

Coats for Our Community has ended another season – our 16th. We gave out almost 1,400 coats this year. If you're wondering what the remaining coats do the rest of the year, they hide behind partitions in the Celtic Room in tubs. In January, we start the process of buying and collecting coats for next year's distribution. Coats are always welcome.



EARLY JANUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Let January open with joy in the Lord, and December close with gladness in Jesus.” What a week! It rained, then dropped 20 degrees and snowed. It was bitter cold and a lot of snow got shoveled. Then it got up to 60 degrees by Wednesday and everything melted. Lake Montrose had its yearly crop of ice fisherman. Our streams are high from all the rain and snow-melt. Those of us who live on dirt roads want the cold back!



Throwbacks:



Mother Liz's First Christmas/Epiphany

Picture from Christmas at St. Paul's, 1936

This picture was photographed in 1936 -- eighty-six years ago. The church was about 80 years old and the parish hall next door was just seven years old. It was taken at Christmas. There were some differences then. The choir was still on the altar stage and the altar itself was set against the back wall so that the Priest's back was to the congregation. You can see the big grate in the middle of the aisle which let the coal-fired heat up. There was an electric light at the peak of the arch which is no longer there. Garlands were tied to it and hung from the sides. Live evergreens were placed at the front of the church. What's neat is, Joe Welden was age 11 then and probably attended Christmas service that week.



Remember When -- Karen and Nancy collecting greens