

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

January 21- January 27



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.

Our Vestry Members

The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Lynne Graham, Sr. Warden

Vickie Calby, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Sandy Seeger, Clerk

Tom Undercoffler

John Warriner

Vera Dunn

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:

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany.

The First Reading gives us the story of Samuel, as a boy, serving in the Temple under the High priest, Eli. The story is known to everyone, how Hannah prayed for a child and God gave her the gift of Samuel. She dedicated him to the service of God when her request was granted. So, Samuel serves under Eli in the temple.

“Speak Lord for your servant hears,” are the words that Samuel says to God the third time that he is called in the night. We expect that God is going to tell the boy that he has been chosen as a Judge,, and prophet, in Israel, but the story takes a twist. Samuel’s first prophecy from God doesn’t concern him, nor his calling, but rather Eli and his family.

God has judged Eli’s offspring and because of their corrupt ways, punishes Eli and his legacy. Eli accepts the verdict of God, resigned to the fact that his sons have destroyed his house and favor, in the sight of God.

From this point on Samuel grows in holiness and is blessed by God and revered by all the people. The very words “Here I am, Lord,’ have been forever tied to the whole concept of vocation. God is calling each one of us, and we need listen to what he is asking of each one of us.

Moving forward to the Letter to the Corinthians, Paul tells the Christians in Corinth that their old life is over. Sin and evil ways can no longer rule their lives. The reason he gives is that through the Holy Spirit God has entered their bodies uniting each with Christ. It is a deeply Eucharistic theology, that in dying Christ not only washed away our sin but replaced it with his saving grace. The Eucharist makes God’s real presence shelter in our own human form. It is a transformation and a rejection of all that is ungodly.

Christ is an invitation. We read of it in the Gospel John 1:43. “If only you knew who it is that says to you...” Jesus says to Nathaniel. If only we realized with full conviction and clarity who it is that we receive every Sunday in the Eucharist, our lives too would be transformed. Uniting with God, in the person of Christ as we hear those words “This is my Body, this is my Blood,” invites us not just to witness to Christ in our lives, but to become Christ for others.

We speak of ‘living in the power of the Holy Spirit’. Meaning that we should and can allow the spirit of Christ to work through us. Working in and through each of us, Christ’s saving ministry continues. At the same time, we receive transformation, growing spiritually closer to the father.

Fr. Bill.

View from the Pew:

Being outside and active on a sunny yet cold winter's day can be an exhilarating experience. You let the blood circulate and your heart pump endorphins throughout your body causing feelings of well being. This is a great time to enjoy being with family - kids and adults together - and friends.

A few years ago a friend of mine and I created an ice skating rink on a small snow covered pond nearby for his two young daughters - the ice is still too thin now to consider that yet this year. I think we may have enjoyed it more than they did. We drilled a hole in the ice, and instead of putting fishing line and a hook through the hole, we used a generator and water pump to siphon the pond water out of the hole to make fresh smooth ice after clearing the snow away. The ice was about four inches thick, but when I jumped up and down, the water in the hole started vibrating quite a bit. Maybe the ice wasn't as strong as I thought. I walked a little lighter after that. The fish are safe for now at the bottom deeper layers of the pond where the water is warmer, wiling away their time until the warmer spring temperatures melt the ice, and the water temperatures begin the climb of the mercury on the thermometer.

Even though winter is a time for rest and resetting, in the form of hibernation for some animals, and dormancy with plant life, it is an easy time of the year to become Inside-bodies watching television of which I'm guilty, and playing video games, which also can be a little fun and addictive. Take the time to keep yourself active and alive at times. It is good for the soul and physically beneficial to you. For plant life, it is the time for the seed stratification process which occurs over winter and it winter breaks to spring it signifies to the seeds to break dormancy and begin the process of germination, starting life all over again.

Winter can be a long and arduous time of year, especially the further north you get, but also is full of good memories: making snow angels; drinking hot chocolate made with whole milk that forms a skin on top with marshmallows melting in it; waist deep in snow; sledding down through fields or down snow covered dirt roads; making snow forts and tunnels; and not so fun freezing cold feet that almost feel burning when coming in from these enjoyable acts.

- John Warriner

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
21



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalms: 62:6-14

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski

Altar Guild: Mary & Ben Zalewski

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Lector: Lynne Graham

Hospitality: Barb Undercoffler

This week's Hymns:

Morning has broken

Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

Thou, whose almighty word

Lift high the cross

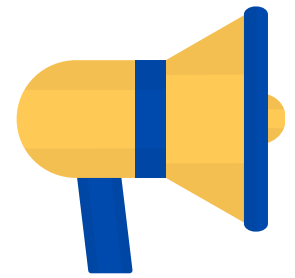


This week's Gospel according to: Mark

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Happenings and Announcements



Annual Meeting

Correction to the Calendar for this month, The Annual Meeting will be held on January 21 @12:00 after Church Service unless there is snow then it will be held January 28 @12:00 after Church service. All are welcome!



For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Bishop Michael Curry, The O'Reilly-Bush Families, Willis Barnes,

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, Ann Shafer 1/16, Bill Rathbone 1/18, David Calby 1/24, Marsha Jones 1/26



This Months Anniversaries:

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.

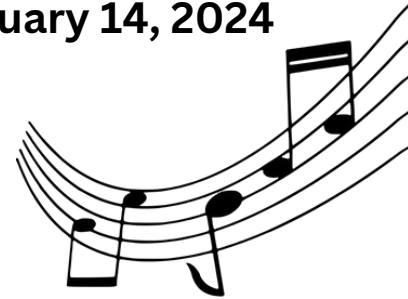
We give thanks for those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week. Grant o God, in your compassion, that those celebrating wedding anniversaries this week may live out the covenant they have made. May they grow in forgiveness, loyalty and love, and come at last to the eternal joys, which you have 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.

Last Week's Service and Events

LAST SUNDAY – Second Sunday After Epiphany, January 14, 2024



The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word:
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.



The January 14, 2024, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was officiated by Mother Liz. Lynne Graham made the announcements and John Warriner read as lector. .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.



Winter Photo

Our computer guru, Kurt Susman is a talented individual and a great photographer. He shared this wintry picture of a cardinal in the snow.



Insulation Crew

This week we insulated the crawl space above the ceiling in the cloister (the hall between the Parish Hall and Church). Thanks to John Warriner and Pat Gallagher for helping to get it done.



Sleeping Bags

If you were outside for any length of time this week, you know how important our sleeping bag ministry is. Thanks to all our helpers that make it possible.



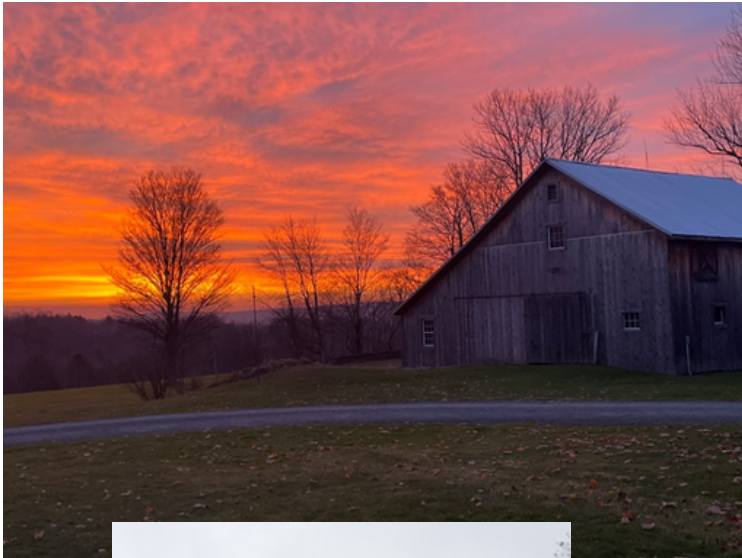


Meadow View

It was the third Wednesday this month and you know that means, going to Meadow View.

Dan's Photos

I take about 12 photos a week to put into our Weekly Update. If I think they are any good, I also submit them to the Susquehanna Independent for their weekly photo. I had five pictures in this year and two (wow!) were selected for 10 Best of SusqCo Scenes 2023 . Here they are – you saw them first!



David Robbins sends a Shout Out

Dave sent this picture from his Christmas visit in Seattle, WA but it didn't make it, due to technical difficulties. We are adding it now. That's the Space Needle from the 1962 Seattle World's Fair behind Dave.

MID-JANUARY IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“In the bleak mid-winter, Frosty wind made moan; Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone.” Cold weather and snow says it all this week.

