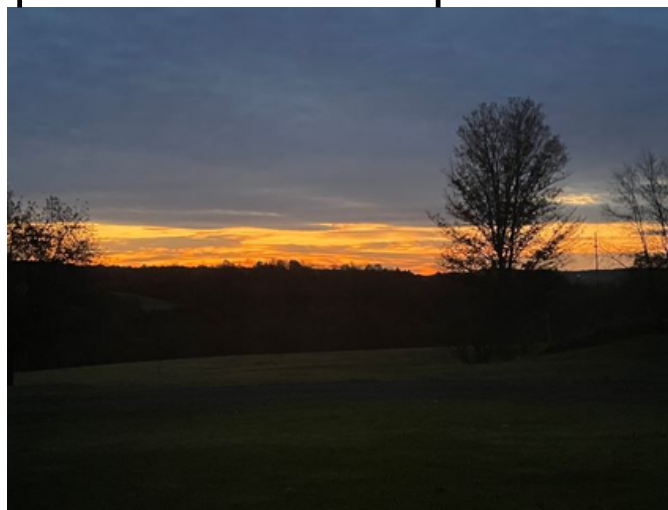


**ST. PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

# Weekly Update

September 15- September 21



**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](mailto: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**

John Warriner, Sr. Warden

Vickie Calby, Jr. Warden

John Finlon, Treasurer

Wanda Peirce, Clerk

Jack Lasher

Dan Graham

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: Father Bill

## “Believing.”

This Sunday’s reading are truly beautiful. The story of the Syrophenician Woman, who begs Jesus to cure her daughter of an evil spirit, is one of many people’s favorites. We have to ask why? She was not a Jew! She was not an Israelite! Rather, she was a Gentile, with no rights, and nothing in her favor, to approach Jesus and make her request. Yet, Jesus is impressed, by her humility, comparing herself to a dog ‘that eats the crumbs the children drop.’

There must be a lesson for us here. Perhaps that many of us are our own worst critics. We are hard on ourselves. We think of ourselves as useless, and unable to ask anything of God. James picks up on this in the second reading, while speaking of the poor. He wants his readers to ‘honor the poor’. He sees a nobility in the labors of the working man, and connects it with the ‘great commandment to ‘love your neighbor.’ Then he connects it to faith, a ‘lived faith’ that is more than mere words.

St Mark adds a story in Chapter 7, of the man who is both deaf, and has an impediment of speech. What is surprising is the detail that Mark uses to describe the miracle. Jesus takes him aside; puts his fingers in his ears; spat and touched his tongue. Mark records Jesus’ words: “Ephphatha,” – “be opened.”—Despite this Mark insists that Jesus orders them to ‘tell no one!’

This is a part of a continuing theme in Mark’s Gospel, called ‘the Hidden Messiah.’ Unlike Matthew of John’s Gospels, Mark would have Jesus disguise his identity. He will not allow the disciples to use the word ‘Messiah’, and often uses the term ‘Son of Man’ instead of ‘Son of God’. —Yet, it seems obvious and plain to his disciples, that he is indeed the ‘Messiah’ and the ‘Holy One of God.’

Think! Think about it. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the Son of God. Believing that should change all our lives. Imagine there is a Superbowl, with 120 thousand people in attendance and 100 million watching, via television. If all see Jesus, floating above the pitch, as clear as any of the players. If they watch him descend, and walk on the field, how many then would believe?

Probably all, even the most black -hearted crooks, villains, murderers, and abusers. Suddenly, they would believe, as if Jesus was running for office. Is that faith? No. Is that true religion? No. They would react no differently if it was Superman, Batman or John F. Kennedy returned from the dead. The truth is much of humanity do not deserve Jesus. They are not seeking a Messiah, nor salvation, and they are destined for perdition.

Get ready. Get ready for churches to be smaller. Christians fewer. Believers are a minority. It is written in scripture. There is a beginning and an end to God’s plan. Amen.

# Sundays Service

Sept  
15



## Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: 116:1-8

The Epistle: James 3:1-12

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

### This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: John Warriner

Altar Guild: Vera Dunn

Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Lynne Graham

Hospitality: Harry & Wanda Peirce

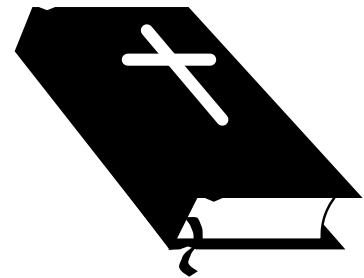
### This week's Hymns:

Praise my soul

Take up your cross, the Savior said

The Church's one foundation

Lift high the cross



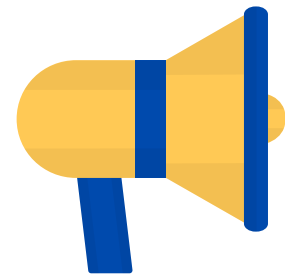
### This week's Gospel according to: Mark

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

# Happenings and Announcements



## **Sleeping Bag Ministry is up and running again!**

Its that time of year when the mornings stay a little bit cooler from overnight and that means that sleeping bags are now back in demand. If you would like to come help out, they meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 10 am here at the church, downstairs in Room 1. We hope to see you there!

## **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](mailto:stpaulsmontrose@epix.net) or John Warriner at [jdwarri@me.com](mailto: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.



## **For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:**

Margaret Burgh, Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker,

## **Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:**

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call John Warriner at 570-278-2317.



## **This Months Birthdays:**

Sandy Nagy 9/6, Nancy Dooling 9/11, Sandy Seeger 9/15, Esther Welden 9/19, Sean Eckert 9/28



## **This Months Anniversaries:**

Harry & Wanda Peirce: Sept. 4 1981

## **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

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost, September 8, 2024

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true and only Light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shade of night;  
Day-spring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.

The September 8th, 2024, 10:00 Morning Prayer service was led by Vickie Calby who also read the announcements. Shelly Green served as lector. Penny Jaggars played a prelude, 3 hymns and a postlude on the keyboard. 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.



## New Crocheting Class

The Montrose Adult School has a class at St. Paul's this fall on Wednesday on crocheting. It's held in St. Paul's Celtic Room and there's room for more crocheters. It's a wonderful skill.





## Soup Night

Yup, September 4th was the first Wednesday of the month and that means that it's soup distribution day here at St. Paul's. This month it was chicken tortellini and vegetable beef. Here we have a group of hard working volunteers who look relaxed but are really the heart and soul of the distribution process. They hand out soup to the cars. It's a lot of fun and rewarding.

Make a pot of soup or come help distribute it next month. Soup day is October 2nd.



## Maintenance

Our church edifice was built in 1857. As with any old building, it needs continual maintenance. Patrick, our resident painter, has been scraping and painting the windows which were peeling on the east side of the building in the Memorial Garden. Good job.



**Old Picture of Montrose 1924 Centennial**



## MID-SEPTEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

While it's a long, long way from May to December, the days grow short, when you reach September". Warm days and chilly nights. The days have been glorious. A pond on a chilly morning with the mist only where the sun was shining. ? Don't touch this caterpillar, the spines will get you. It's time to buy your fall mums. A butterfly on the zinnias. The carrot crop was a little sparse this year – next year is another year! My favorite fall photograph – early morning, a September calf, just born, still streaming, and Mom wasn't sure about me taking the picture. It's late summer in Susquehanna County.

