

**ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Weekly Update

September 22- September 28



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

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

“Come Lord Jesus!”

Jesus in his teaching spoke, a number of times, about the ‘Kingdom of God.’ At one stage he compared it to a ‘Mustard Seed’, which although the smallest seed, grows into the largest bush. I always thought, the next part, was somehow overlooked: “and it gives shelter to all the birds of the air.”

We live in an age of negative news, about churches and Christianity. Talk of a declining church, low attendance, has filled the news media, ever since Covid 19. —Yet, Jesus also teaches in Parables, about the ‘threshing floor’ of the barn. Here the wheat is gathered after the harvest, and the wheat seed is separated from the chaff! Again, he teaches of the servants coming to the master, to complain that an ‘enemy’ has sown ‘tares’ among the wheat, and should they now rip them out of the field.

All these teachings speak of the kingdom of God, with Jesus knowing what is to come. We are in a similar situation today. We are rapidly, becoming the ‘anawim’, the faithful few, who waited the coming of the Messiah, before Jesus’ birth. I believe our prayer should be: “Come Lord Jesus!” ---It is one of the earliest prayers of the First Century church. “Jesus Christus Dominus est!” ---Jesus Christ is Lord. “Come Lord Jesus into our hearts, and like the mustard seed bring us change, not for our sake but for those who would shelter in the strength of this faith and your word.”

How can we get away from the idea that salvation is about numbers? Even that church is about numbers. Jesus did not say that. He said: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be.”—In Penal Times, Christians gathered in small numbers, in order not to attract attention. They gathered in homes, basements, on the shore, and around a flat rock, in the hills. In England, large mansions had a secret room, often built into a wall where the ‘Mass’ could be celebrated.

For Fifty (50) long years, Christians in Eastern Europe and in Russia, survived the brutality of Communism, including the purges of Joseph Starlin, in Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Estonia, Eastern Germany and Yugoslavia. Churches were closed, priests banned, bishops imprisoned, Christians fined, yet they survived. Today we need to pray for the ‘Church of Tomorrow’. —Smaller, devout, archival, witnessing, faithful, resolute, prayerful. Like the Planet ‘Foundation,’ in Asimov’s “Foundation Trilogy,” we need to map out our own future. We need plant the seed of the Kingdom of God. We do not as ‘church,’ exist for ourselves. We exist to proclaim the Gospel, and the kingdom of Heaven. Do that, and we will have done all we need to do. The Spirit will do the rest. Amen.

Sundays Service

Sept
22



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalm: 54

The Epistle: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: John Warriner

Altar Guild: Vera Dunn

Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: Vickie Calby

Hospitality: Vickie Calby

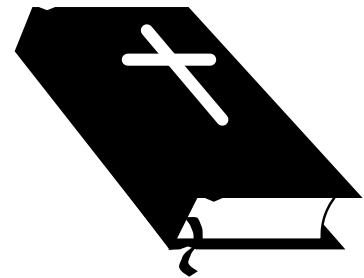
This week's Hymns:

Holy God we praise thy name

When Jesus left his father's throne

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy

How firm a foundation

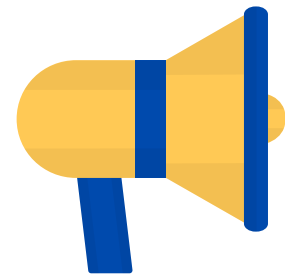


This week's Gospel according to: Mark

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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 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.



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

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost, September 15, 2024

The church's one foundation,
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation,
By water by 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 September 15th, 2024, 10:00 Morning Prayer service was led by John Warriner who also read the announcements. Lynne Graham 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.



Food Pantry Collection Boxes

Collection boxes for food donations are located inside the main church door and at the top of the stairs into the Parish Hall. Talk to Wanda or Harry if you have questions on what to donate.



New Sump Pump

As you know, St. Paul's sump pump died during a heavy rainstorm we had. It had lasted almost ten years so it had done its duty. Thanks to Pat Gallagher for climbing down the hole and hooking the new one up. Let's hope it's good for another ten years.

Old Photo of the Presbyterian Church

Here's what the Presbyterian Church looked like about 1900. This was their second church and was built in 1861 on the site of the original 1824 one, only four years after St. Paul's current church was built. It's generally conceded that it was built to outdo St. Paul's (1857/58) and it was stipulated that its steeple would be higher than ours. However, there were no tall trees in Montrose at that time and in January of 1898, a lightning bolt hit the tip of their steeple sending it through the roof and causing a ten foot hole. So much for having the highest steeple with metal on it!



There's Something About a Hole

Whether it's John Finlon and John Warriner looking down St. Paul's cistern or Sophie and the Crawford Septic guy looking down the septic hole, everybody seems to want to see what's down there!



MID-SEPTEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

The weather again, has been outstanding. Great days, cool nights. Fall officially starts Sunday, September 23 but summer is going out with a bang. The banner apple crop this year has the deer living well – and getting bold. It's just perfect hiking weather and the dogs love it. The zinnias and ageratum hang back all summer but take off in mid-September. Time to empty the bird boxes. The feathers in this one indicate it was used by a tree swallow. It's peach canning time. It's the last week of summer here in Susquehanna County.

