

**ST. PAUL'S**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

# Weekly Update

December 1- December 7



**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.

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

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

### **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 Keith

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

-Romans 15:13

I looked out the window this morning and noticed that all my bird feeders were empty. I keep six out in the yard that are regularly used. Any day you look out there, you'll see at least a cup of black oil sunflower seeds, shelled peanuts, or a half pecked suet cake. Many days, everything is brimming full, because I love the look of it and I love the life it brings.

But this time, all was empty. I don't know exactly when it happened. Maybe there was a lot of need from the birds the last few days. Or maybe it was more because I wasn't paying attention for this past week. But some way or another, it was all empty .

And that made me sad, because a full feeder, in a weird way, fills my soul. It reminds me of God's provision for me and the earth. It reminds me that God's eye is on the sparrow. It reminds me that life is all around me, if I take time to notice and care. It reminds me that beauty and color are still out there, even in the darkening days and cooling air. For whatever reason, a full feeder moves me toward life in Jesus.

So noticing six bare, empty feeders was actually a little alarming. I felt the need to stop what I was doing and take some time to fill them up. For my sake. For the birds' sake. Really, for the sake of everyone and everything.

I want to invite you to look out the window today and take notice, friends. What do you see? Are there wells within your soul that have gone empty? Have jobs, tasks, responsibilities, global worries, and exhaustion depleted the spaces in you that bring joy and connection with Jesus? Have you been going strong for a long time, and realize that you've been pouring out energy and not receiving the love and care needed to sustain it?

Jesus longs to pour his spirit into you so that color, joy, and life can flourish. But we are so formed by the busyness, distractions, and responsibilities of life that we convince ourselves we don't have time to receive the good gift. Or, we simply forget that it's even available to us in the first place. You have the time to ask Jesus to fill your soul, friends. You have the time to rest and be known. You are given it as a gift of grace. If you notice you're empty, take time to be filled.

At the risk of sounding too pragmatic, I'll offer a few simple ways that this could look for you today: Take a prayer walk. Look around and receive God's beauty around you, with a particular awareness that you are a part of God's beautiful creation, too.

Page through the Psalms until something relates to your own feelings. Slow down and pray it personally with gratitude, and invite Jesus to recalibrate your soul.

Do some imaginative prayer. Close your eyes and consider the situations that are depleting you. Imagine Jesus physically there in them with you. What is his expression? What words is he offering you? How is he sheltering you from harm? Receive God's care.

Text a friend who you love spending time with but haven't seen lately. In the next 3 days choose to get coffee or share a happy hour with no agenda except connection. Receive God's gift of community. Stop doomscrolling and turn that thing off.

Take a bit of time to partner with God in filling up some empty feeders in your life. Receive it all as a gift, and look around for new life emerging this week as you do.

You are beloved. Jesus, fill the depleted places in my soul today. I trust you. Peace, Keith

# Sundays Service

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## First Sunday of Advent

### Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm: 25:1-9

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

### This Week's Ministers:

Celebrant: Susan Treanor

Altar Guild: Barb U. & Sandy S.

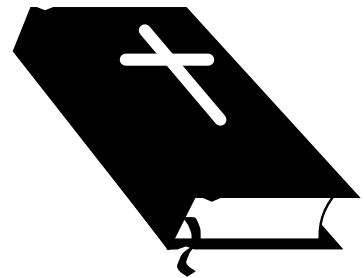
Announcements: John Warriner

Lector: John Warriner

Hospitality:

### This week's Hymns:

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending  
Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding  
Hark the glad sound! the Savior comes  
How bright appears the Morning Star  
Hail to the Lord's Anointed



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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

# Happenings and Announcements

## Found Parishioner

Hello all, Have you been wondering what happened to our dear Naomi Bennett and why we haven't seen her in church for a while? Well, Kate tells me her grandmother is in Good Shepherd Fairview Home in Binghamton. Her address is 80 Fairview Ave., Binghamton, NY 13904, Room C23. I know she would be thrilled to receive cards and visitors. Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers from a fractured hip.



## The Country Store

The Country Store will be on December 7th this year and it's coming fast. There was a meeting after church on Sunday the 24th. As always, we will have our North Pole kitchen with hot lunch; raffle baskets; and the bake table. We always need volunteers, so let Lynne know if you can help.



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

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



## This Months Birthdays:

Dan Graham 12/4, Vera Dunn 12/13, John Warriner 12/31



## 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

Twenty Seventh Sunday After Pentecost, November 24, 2024

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;  
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.

The November 24th, 2024, 10:00 Morning Prayer service was led by Lynne Graham. John Warriner served as lector and also read the announcements. Andrew Wurth played a prelude, 3 hymns and a postlude from the Web. 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.

## Coats for our Community

Coats for Our Community will be distributed at Grace Lutheran Church in Hop Bottom on November 30th. They then will come back to us to coincide with Susquehanna County Interfaith's Christmas Bureau on December 18th and 19th. Below is a photo of the "coat room" downstairs in September and one taken this week. We have distributed over 1,200 coats so far. Our rooms are bare.



## Shoveling Snow from Hedges

Dan and a neighbor went into church on Saturday and removed the snow from the hedge in front of the church and the rhododendron.



## The Big Snow

The big storm they were forecasting arrived as predicted. Over 12 inches outside of town and about 9 or so in town. It was heavy and wet. It arrived on Thursday night and snowed through Friday night. Justin Peake was there shoveling a couple of times. If you see him, say thanks.



## Collections for Diapers and Stuffing

Once again, during Advent, we will sponsor a community diaper drive to help us focus on the birth of Jesus. Please bring in donations of any size diapers and put them on the chairs in the choir section. Interfaith is requesting 50 boxes of stuffing mix again this year for the Christmas dinner baskets. All donations can be placed on the front pew. Thank you for your generosity.



## Soup Night at South Montrose Church

A couple of us went over to the South Montrose Church last Monday and had soup and checked out the competition. The group of servers was getting an award from Trehab that night. They do soup once a month but you can eat inside or do takeout. Actually, their selection was good and you got soup, salad, a roll and the parishioners made desserts.



## New Employee

Yep, looks like we have a new one at St. Paul's. Little Averly is being held by her great-grandmother, Naomi Bennett. Naomi is currently in rehab and was paid a visit by Kate and the baby.



## LATE-NOVEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“It’s not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.” Starting to get winter sunsets. A powerful winter storm dumped almost a foot of snow in town. It didn’t stay long but broke a lot of branches. What a difference a day makes. The turkeys were taken on Thursday morning; the snow picture is Friday morning. Shelf fungi are fun to find, there are so many different kinds. We were paid a visit by this opossum who didn’t like the flashlight in its eyes. It’s been a multi weather week so far. Happy Thanksgiving!

