



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Update

December 7- December 13



276 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801

Office 570-278-2954, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9am-2pm

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>

Embracing all in Christ through our love and service.

Pastoral Emergency or Non-Emergency Contact:

You can call the parish office during office hours. After hours, call The Rev. Susan Treanor at 845-800-0107.

Our Vestry Members

John Warriner, Sr. Warden	Lynne Graham, Jr. Warden
John Finlon, Treasurer	Wanda Peirce, Clerk
Vera Dunn	Dan Graham
Sandy Seeger	

Donations 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 middle aisle:

Patriotism and the Episcopal Church: A Reflection

Last Sunday during coffee hour, I was asked a thought-provoking question that has stayed with me all week: How does the Episcopal Church regard patriotism?

Specifically, does the Church approve of it or not? This question does not have a simple answer, and I have spent considerable time reflecting on it.

To begin, it is important to clarify the terms involved. Patriotism and nationalism are not the same thing. Patriotism refers to devotion to and vigorous support of one's country. In contrast, nationalism is defined as identification with one's own nation and support for its interests, often to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations.

In my view, patriotism, like all our actions, should be evaluated in light of Christ's teachings. Supporting our country can have positive, negative, or mixed consequences. The notion of "my country, right or wrong" is not a reliable standard for judging our actions. While the United States is our country, we must acknowledge that our nation has been wrong, such as the history of slavery and the intentional infection of Native Americans with diseases. On the other hand, actions like establishing free public education from kindergarten through high school, providing aid to underdeveloped nations, and offering disaster relief are examples of deeds that I would consider consistent with Christ's teachings and therefore good.

Our Baptismal promises call us to recognize the dignity of every human person. Additionally, Jesus commands us to "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself." These principles do not allow for personal or national gain at the expense or detriment of others.

To summarize, I believe that nationalism is usually not in line with Christian values, while patriotism can lead to either good or unchristian actions. Therefore, it is essential to evaluate the consequences of our actions—whether personal, communal, or national—through the teachings of Christ.

I imagine these reflections and the question itself may also get you to reflect. As always, I'd be delighted to talk with you.

-Rev. Susan

Sundays Service

The Second Sunday of Advent

Dec
7



Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Response: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
The Epistle: Romans 15:4-13
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

This Week's Ministers:

Preacher: The Rev. Susan Treanor
Altar Guild: Sandy Seeger
Announcements: John Warriner
Lector: Shelly Green
Hospitality: Darrow Catering

This week's Hymns:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
There's a voice in the wilderness crying
Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding
Comfort, comfort ye my people
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

**Altar Flowers this week are
given by:**

**MaryAnn and Sean
Harrington
in honor of the
December Birthdays**

This week's Gospel according to: Matthew

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Happenings and Announcements

Announcements

1. Soup night was on Wednesday this week. Thank you to all for your help. We handed out around 100 soups with just a little bit left over.
2. Today is the deadline for the toy tags and stuffing boxes. Stuffing was from one end of the first pew to the other end.
3. The Silver Bells tour will be on this Friday at 4.
4. Then on Saturday is the Country Store for Christmas in Montrose from 9 AM to 2 PM. Bring in items for the raffle baskets, and baked goods for the bake table. We will be setting up the tables and such today (Thursday) at 2 PM.
5. The bishop's visit will be on Sunday, so we'll need to set up for that after the festivities on Saturday. We will have catered hors d'oeuvres.
6. Rev. Susan will started the Advent study series this week. We have two sessions: one on Wednesday at 5 and one on Thursday at 1.
7. There are five birthdays coming up in the next couple weeks. Dan Graham on Thursday the 4th, Rev. Susan on Friday the 5th, MaryAnn Harrington on Saturday the 6th and Sean Harrington next Thursday the 11th, and Vera Dunn on the 13th.

Peace and Blessings,
John Warriner

For those who are ill or have requested our prayers:



Naomi Bennett, Rita Leigh, Nancy Finlon, Carol Marker, Richard Marker, Carol Lasher, Elaine Petrzala, Tom Undercoffler, Janice Gavern, Wanda Peirce, Ellen Ely, John Reynolds, Vera Dunn, Chris Gates, Greg Helms

The names requested for prayers will stay in the update for 2 weeks unless requested otherwise

This Months Birthdays:

Dan Graham 12/4, Rev Susan 12/5, MaryAnn Harrington 12/6, Vera Dunn 12/13, Sean Harrington 12/11, John Warriner 12/31



This Months Anniversaries:

Father John & Nancy Wagner:
December 20, 1969

If you have a birthday or anniversary that is not listed and you would like to add it, please let Kate know!

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 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 23rd, 2025

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

The First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by the Rev. Susan Treanor. John Warriner read announcements and also read the lessons. 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.



Bishop Nichols to Visit

The Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols will visit St. Paul's on Sunday, December 7th. This photograph was taken at Gather 24. The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlon, who will be the first Bishop of the Diocese of the Susquehanna, was also in attendance.





Christmas Store

Yup, it's coming fast. The first Saturday in December is Christmas in Montrose and we of course, do our Christmas Store. We will be serving lunch and could still use some help in the kitchen. Here's last year's crew.



Montrose is getting ready for Christmas

Two sure signs appeared this week to let us know that Christmas is really coming soon. The Christmas lights and trees appeared at the court house and Lynne's mother's Christmas cactus started blooming.



Altar Carpet Repaired

Thanks to Lynne for repairing the carpet under the altar. Three of the corners were fraying and she reinforced the edges. Hopefully, the repairs will hold up for a couple more years.

Let it Snow

We got our first real snow on Tuesday, the 2nd. When it was all done, we got about 3 or 4 inches, not quite as much as they got in this old photograph looking down South Main Street.



Jack Lasher Got a Deer

It's deer season and although he's 84, he is still hunting. Jack got a nice 8-point buck to brag about. Now we know where he got that venison kielbasa that he used to bring for coffee hour.

Early Montrose Invention

This archeological gem was discovered on the old fairgrounds. It's truly a portable porta-potty as it has tires and is towable. I wonder if the Historic Society would want it for their collection?



EARLY DECEMBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Late fall teaches us that letting go is a part of moving forward.” It was cold this week, but the weather was like we expect for the beginning of December. The morning and days were foggy and ice appeared on the ponds. We had our first real snow on Tuesday - 3 to 4 inches. For some reason, large flocks of geese were flying high, heading south. Why were these so late? The winter blues appear now in photographs. It’s fall here.

