



# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Weekly Update

November 2- November 8



**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](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 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:

Jesus on adultery:

*And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

-Matthew 5:28-30

Jesus when confronted with an actual case of adultery:

*"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."*

*[...] "neither do I condemn you..."*

-John 8:7,11

*Jesus! Where's your consistency?? You should have at least cut off a hand!*

This post is not about adultery. It's about Jesus.

When you read the gospels, it becomes pretty clear that Jesus is willing to speak harshly about things. Jesus speaks openly about things like judgment and morality, and he is unafraid to strongly challenge people (especially the religious and the rich) throughout the gospels. And yet, something else also happens. Every single time someone tries to get Jesus on their side against someone, he seems to push back against it. Or the opposite! People like tax collectors, who stood for everything Jesus spoke against (greed, idolatry, mistreatment of the poor), seem to get special attention and kindness when Jesus meets them? What's the deal?

All we want is a little consistency, Jesus. Pick a side.

The problem with the way that we read the gospels is that we look at Jesus through our own tendency to pick sides based on "issues." Jesus uses a completely different framework most of the time. And as he does so, it can feel inconsistent to us.

This is because the "single issue" that guided Jesus' actions was the value and dignity of every human, each bearing the image of God. So from the outside, it can feel like Jesus was constantly changing allegiances. But he wasn't. He was simply living beyond our chosen categories. Consider the above example: Jesus knew that adultery and lust brings incredible pain and brokenness, damaging relationships and eventually leaving people feel used and others full of shame. No human thrives when they experience that, so he speaks harshly against how it pulls us away from God. And yet, when someone has actually done what he warned against, Jesus is the first to remind everyone that her life is as precious and valuable to God as everyone else's is, and he offers grace and advocates for her.

Jesus is, and always has been, on the side of humanity. And when that's the case, his radical love may even feel inconsistent. Do we have the courage to live this radical third way in the world? Christians must have enough bravery and integrity to regularly "switch sides" when faithfulness to Jesus demands it.

Jacques Ellul, French philosopher and anabaptist theologian, wrote about Christians becoming so consistent that they are willing to switch sides at a moment's notice for the sake of love and compassion. He gave the example that in the French Revolution, the most Christlike response would have been working for the freedom and worth of the peasantry. But when the peasants began executing the aristocracy, faithfulness to Jesus would require Christians to immediately switch sides and defend the inherent worth of ruling class. They remained on the side of Jesus' peace, mercy and dignity. But that would look like switching sides, and likely even feel like betrayal to some of the revolutionaries.

So we stand with the oppressed, until the moment the oppressed becomes an oppressor. We seek to live in truth, but never in a way that threatens another's dignity. We defend the inherent worth of every person, the ones who are harmed and even those who may have harmed others. This is a consistent view of the image of God in all people, and the way of nonviolence in Christ. No worldly systems should ever expect "loyalty" from Christians if they begin to do things that diminish the worth and dignity of anyone, regardless of how good their overall goal may be. God's kingdom is not brought about that way. Jesus showed us that.

So we hold the conviction that every mistreated person is worth caring for and defending.

**Hard stop. No qualifications after that.**

And we hold the conviction that everyone who seeks to do what's right with their next moment is moving toward God's heart, regardless of what you've already decided about their past or their character.

**Hard stop. No one gets to be written off.**

And internally it means a tough shift:

*It means we've got to stop thinking Jesus is on our side, and slowly and humbly learn what it means to be on the side of Jesus, moment by moment.*

This is not simply about "big issues" or ideologies. This is about daily interactions. We can be right in our views and wrong in the way we hold them. We may be true in our statements and wrong in how or when we state them. But if we submit ourselves to Jesus and acknowledge the image of God in each person, we will move toward being consistently inconsistent, the way Jesus was.

*Jesus, help us keep our allegiance to you first today, so that we might be able to see the value inherent in every single person we meet.*

Peace,  
Keith from LifePath Church

# Sundays Service

The Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

Nov  
2



## Readings for this Week:

First Reading: Isaiah 1:10-18  
Response: Psalm 32:1-8  
The Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,  
11-12  
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

## This Week's Ministers:

Preacher: The Rev. Susan Treanor  
Altar Guild: Mary Zalewski  
Announcements: John Warriner  
Lector: John Warriner  
Hospitality: Lynne Graham

## This week's Hymns:

Lord Jesus, think on me  
Let thy Blood in mercy poured  
O bless the Lord, my soul!  
For all the saints

## This week's Gospel according to: Luke

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

# Happenings and Announcements

## Announcements

1. Carol Marker's 90th birthday will be on Friday. Happy Birthday, Carol, and Happy Halloween!
2. It is Ann and Glen Kiefer's 60th anniversary. Happy anniversary, Ann and Glen!
3. We have 8 sleeping bags put together. Some we made and some real ones were donated. Reverend Susan will bless them during today's service. We decided to put them out on the bottom shelf of the pantry. That way they will go directly to the local community. Last spring we started this and they were gone the next day.
4. Bob and Vera Dunn will be hosting a spaghetti dinner this Sunday, **November 2nd at 3 PM** before they head south to warmer climates for the winter. Come and enjoy a nice warm meal!
5. Soup night will be next **Wednesday, November 5th**. The soups are chili and potato. We need volunteers to help out in the kitchen and putting everything into bags, and delivery.
6. Game night was on Friday, but it was just me and Gaby. But we made the night productive and helped someone study for their U.S. citizenship test. There were some tough questions in there that I didn't know.

Sending well wishes to you all,  
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, Al Marchel, Lindsay Golden



### This Months Birthdays:

Nancy Wagner 11/21, Bob Dunn 11/25



### 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

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

I come with joy to meet my Lord  
Forgiven, Loved, And Free;  
In Awe And Wonder To Recall  
His Life Laid Down For Me.

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 26<sup>h</sup>, 10:00 Holy Eucharist Service was led by the Rev. Susan Treanor. John Warriner read announcements and Shelly Green 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.



## Sleeping Bags Blessed

With winter right around the corner, our sleeping bag ministry has started up again. Rev. Susan blessed the ones that are ready to go. They can always use some extra hands and it's fun besides. If you think that you would be interested in helping, let John Warriner know.



## Happy Birthday

Vicky and Carol Marker have birthdays this week. They got blessed and were sung happy birthday to. It doesn't get better than that. Happy Birthday ladies!



## Coffee Hour

St. Paul's coffee hour is the second most important hour of our Sunday. We gather to catch up on one another's week and enjoy some food together. Please consider signing up on the sheet in the parish hall to host coffee hour. It does not have to be fancy. Something to snack on while we drink our coffee and greet each other is all that's necessary.



## Endless Mountains Theatre Company

St. Paul's has hosted three Endless Mountains Theatre Company presentations this year so far. It has one more scheduled. They do all their practices here at night in the Parish Hall and they have been good stewards of our buildings snow. If you haven't been to a play, consider going to the December one.

Endless Mountains Theatre Co presents

**THESE MOUNTAINS GOT TALENT**  
A PARODY

Written by Heather Considine  
With Familiar Songs Like You've Never Heard Them Before!

Bob DeLuca Director  
Sandra Raub Producer

THE REVIEWS ARE IN  
"Reality TV has never been so REAL!"  
"All I can say is wow. Just. Wow."  
"The raw talent on stage was, well, raw!"

St Paul's Episcopal Church  
276 Church St, Montrose, Pa 18801

FRIDAY SEPT 12 7PM  
SATURDAY SEPT 13 3PM & 7PM

**\$15**  
Tickets available at the door or online!  
Box office opens 30 minutes before showtime. Cash/Check ONLY at Box Office

Funded in part by the Susquehanna County Room Tax Fund through the Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency.

ENDLESS MOUNTAINS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS...

A Heart-Warming Comedy that Proves You're Never Too Old to Start Living

WRITTEN BY PEG KEHRET

Friday & Saturday April 25-26 @ 7pm  
Sunday April 27 @ 2pm

**SPIRIT!**

Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado  
St Paul's Episcopal Church, Montrose, PA 18801

ADMISSION - \$15  
ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE  
CASH/CHECK ONLY AT THE DOOR  
Box Office Opens 30 Minutes Prior to Showtime

Endless Mountains Theatre Company presents...

**ONE AXE**

An Anthology of Short Plays  
Written by Local Playwrights

Directed by Sandra Raub

Writer Competition!  
Audience Chooses the Winning Play!

OCT 7PM  
OCT 18 7PM  
OCT 19 3PM

ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
276 CHURCH ST  
MONTROSE PA 18801

Refreshments Available  
Doors Open 30 Minutes Before Showtime  
Cash/Check Only at the Door

**\$15**

## Man in the Kitchen

Tom Undercoffler sent this photograph he took of John Warriner and entitled it "Man in the Kitchen." John had mentioned before that he had never made applesauce before so Barb and Tom offered to show him and Gaby how. They all had a great time learning something new. YUM!



## Snowy Pasts

Winter's coming and here's a winter postcard of the old Montrose Inn to remind us what snow looks like. Directly across from St. Pauls, we would have gotten as much as snow the Inn did (whenever that was.) The snowed-in car looks to be from the late 30s or 40s. Oh, think its not going to snow for some time, this shot was taken November 22 last year. That's less than a month!



## Painting Class

St. Paul's is used by a number of groups and on Monday and Thursday mornings, the painting class meets in the Celtic Room. With windows all around, the light is perfect. Maybe you would like to give it a try. They are a good group and have a lot of fun.



## LATE OCTOBER IN SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY

“Two sounds of autumn are unmistakable...the hurrying rustle of crisp leaves blown along the road...by a gusty wind, and the gabble of a flock of migrating geese.” The fall browns have arrived. There have been crisp foggy mornings with frost and warm afternoons. Wood smoke has begun appearing from the chimneys. The leaves are off most of the trees and “buck rubs” begin appearing on small trees. After being almost non-existent all summer, ticks are out in droves. If you do any walking in the woods or in fields, take precautions. Tick repellent and checking yourself is a requirement. It's fall here in Susquehanna County.

