



A Living Faith

Christian Historian Diana Butler Bass (*Christianity for the Rest of Us*) conducted research on mainline churches that had drastically dwindled, but had transformed into vibrant churches once again. Change did not come easily or without growing pains, but each congregation discovered a new and vital faith that attracted others. Implemented practices included hospitality (welcoming the stranger), discernment (listening for the truth), healing (entering shalom), contemplation (openness to prayer), testimony (talking the talk), diversity (making community), justice (engaging worldly powers), worship (experiencing God), reflection (thinking theologically), and beauty (touching the divine). When renewing congregations deliberately emphasized a few of these, their faith communities were transformed. They once again began to change lives.

The Biblical book First Timothy is all about helping Christians reach out to others. The first thing Timothy is instructed to do is pray. He's to pray in every way he knows how- and for everyone he knows, including rulers and their governments.

Now, Timothy doesn't live in a Christian society or even one ruled by a predominantly Christian government. His surrounding culture is primarily non-Christian. Christianity itself is under persecution as a minority faith group. So, Timothy is to pray for those who are persecuting his family's faith!

Timothy needs a strong prayer life to accomplish the work he's been given as Christ's disciple. The appointed work of the church in every place and time is to get the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone. For Timothy, it means he must reach out to his non-Christian culture. Because God desires that everyone should come to know what we have already learned.

When Jesus called disciples, he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." So, we're not to say, "I follow Jesus, but I don't have the time or talent to fish for people to tell them about Jesus. I joined a church with a pastor whose job it is to invite others to follow Jesus." If only one person is enlisted to fish, the church is going to die slowly of starvation.

A living faith has at its base: prayers, thanksgiving for everyone, and the spreading of the good news of Christ Jesus. God works within us and among us to empower us to work together as the Body of Christ. We are to continue what Jesus started in bringing about God's Reign here on earth.

To accomplish our mission, we must allow God to transform us into vibrantly alive individuals and churches. God is not one who picks and chooses. No one is worthless or beyond God's thoughts. God loves *everyone* and aches for us all to be one- just as our Triune God is one in the Trinity. When we live faithfully in God's abundance, then our lives and the lives of those whom we encounter will be changed for the good of all.

50-Year Member Celebration- October 4

We will be celebrating our members who joined St. Paul's UCC in 1976. We currently have Howard Barraclough Jr and Wendy (Ripstein) Walsh on the list. If you believe you are a 50-year member or if you know of someone who should be included, please let us know.

Western Association Spring Meeting- April 25

Western New York Area Churches in Covenant is offering Fellowship, Worship, and Workshops from 9am-2pm at Church of the Nativity.

Pastor Laurie will be attending.

We may have two voting representatives as well.

Let her know if you're interested.

Thank you!

Pray for our Shut-ins



Russ Wackenheim

...and others who are physically unable to join us.
Why not call or visit, to let them know they are missed?



DUNKIRK CAMP SIGN UPS

Youths interested in attending Dunkirk Camp this summer
Deadlines for sign up are: April 1st with Tom Baker
Deadline for On-line sign up is April 15th.
This is to take advantage of the "early bird" discount



The Attica Food Pantry
Located at
121 Prospect Street



Open: Tuesday and Fridays
9 am to 12 Noon

Bible Studies

Dig Deeper with Friends



Bible Study groups will meet in our respective areas.

If you have additional questions or Concerns, contact the Convener:

Lisa Knerr-Mon.6:30pm
Marilyn Wilson-Wed. morning, 10 am

Sunday Bible readings: The first reading is *italicized*; the message text is **bold**.

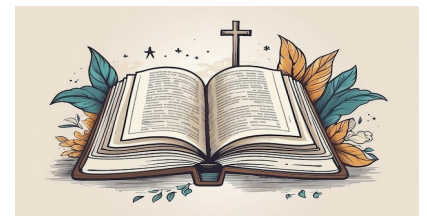
April 5—Easter Dawn
John 20:1-18

April 5—Easter 10 am
Matthew 28.1-10
Colossians 3.1-4

April 12
John 20.19-31
Acts 2.14a,22-24

April 19
Acts 2:14a,36-42
Psalms 116:1-4,12-19
Luke 24:13-35
1 Peter 1:16-23

April 26
John 10.1-10
Acts 2:42-47



COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE
Study



REMEMBER WHEN?

BIG NEWS

BIG NEWS

Annual Ham Supper
sponsored by
THE CHURCH COUNCIL of ST. PAUL'S E & R CHURCH

Serving starts at 5pm

April 23, 1959

Adults and Children

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

Finley Paganello received the "Toughest on the Mat" award for Tri Town wrestling.

Attica Varsity Boys Basketball team held its annual teacher appreciation night. High School English teacher Becki Peters was chosen by Sophomore Jack Cusmano. She was chosen because she helped him improve as a student. She does a great job explaining things clearly in a way that is easy to understand, encouraging everyone to participate and do their best in class.

Sawyer West went to Albany for an FFA conference learning about Ag issues and solutions and how they can be the voice for Agriculture in our county.

Kathryn McPherson is studying abroad in Luxembourg across the pond in Western Europe.

Madelyn Perry and Eleanor Eddy finished out the basketball cheer season with a 2nd place at one of their competitions.

Charlotte Perry scored a goal and her team went to playoffs for indoor soccer.

On March 4th the Attica Band Department hosted the 40th+ band in the round event for grades 5th-12th. Joshua Kipfer, Christopher Eddy and Levi Perry all participated.

Levi Perry scored the most points of the modified basketball team ending the season with 159 points.



Upcoming Important Dates:



April 2nd Maundy Thursday Service
5:30 pm with potluck dinner

April 3rd Good Friday Service
12 Noon service

April 5th Easter Sunrise Service
6:30 am service in Attica Memorial Park

April 5th Easter Sunday Service
10 am service with Communion

Maundy Thursday Potluck and Communion- 5:30pm April 2

Join us for Maundy Thursday worship in the Fellowship Hall! We'll share a potluck meal and celebrate Communion. Bring a dish to share!

Good Friday Worship- 12 Noon

On Good Friday, **April 3**, there will be **Tenebrae** worship at noon. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

Easter Dawn Worship in the Attica Park- 6:30am

Once again, St. Paul's will be hosting an Easter Dawn Service in the Park. Join us at 6:30am at the Fireman's Pavillion. We'll be providing a simple breakfast.



OPERATING ACCT

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>March</u>
Beginning Balance	\$ 33,158.70	29,597.75	26432.89
Income	7,211.00	9,810.00	
Expenses	10,806.95	12,974.86	
Income/loss	(3,560.95)	(3,164.86)	
Ending Balance	29,597.75	26,432.89	

CHURCH COUNCIL

February 17, 2026

Council President Jeff Peters called the meeting to order at 6:58pm. Pastor Laurie led us in prayer. We welcomed new members: Tom Baker (Trustee), Jennifer Eddy (Deacon), and Vicki Silvernail (Deacon). Other members present: Deacons- Ruth Hopfinger, Lynne Jacoby, Justin Kipfer, Lisa Knerr and Trustees- Chris Eddy, Jeff Peters, Roy Ticen, and David Williman.

Agenda was reviewed and accepted,
MMSC Vicki Silvernail, Lynne Jacoby.

December meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted with an addition, MMSC Jennifer Eddy, David Williman.

January meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted,
MMSC Lynne Jacoby, Vicki Silvernail.

**MMSC - motion made, seconded, carried

Reports-

Deacons - see report

Trustees - see report

Treasurer - David mentioned the repairs to boiler in the amount of \$1800. Due to the snow day (Jan 25) January was a short month financially.

Christian Education - \$660 was made at the basket raffle during the Pancake Breakfast. Scrapbooking event is next fundraiser for the 5 Dunkirk Campers.

Pastor Laurie - Confirmands are doing well. They are involved in church projects and helping with events. They helped count the Souper Bowl money. Pentecost is in May when they will have their Confirmation. Pastor is proud of the extra efforts of the council in community outreach. The events have been successful. MMSC for all reports, David and Vicki.

Old Business-

Pancake Breakfast review - we will keep the date as the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Attendance was increased about 10%. Approximately 100 attending with a profit of \$545. Thank you to all the volunteers helping to work on Saturday and Sunday. We had many helpers!! Thank you to Anna Hopfinger for the information sheet that was placed on the tables. Suggestion made to send them home with the Pre-School students. The Venmo account was set up; it can be used for weekly Sunday offering. It will be added to the website and the social media accounts. Thank you to Sharon Bey for all the donations and use of her griddle. Thank you to Roy & Lisa for the additional signs advertising the breakfast!!

New Business -

Easter Sunrise Service is April 5, 6:30, at Attica Village Park (pending village approval). We discussed having more breakfast items available along with coffee.

Call list for cancellations was updated. We apologize to any members who did not receive a call on January 25.

David mentioned placing another St. Paul's t-shirt order. We discussed possibly opening it up to the pre-school or gifting a shirt on their graduation.

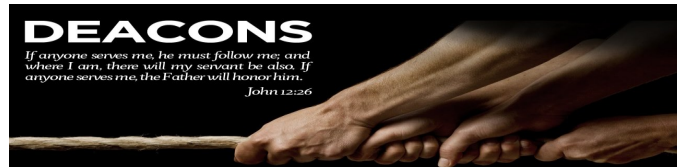
Roy gave us a quick history of Attica and the prominent people from here. He presented the population numbers for the past 100 years. Attica's population has declined greatly since 1970 which has been reflected in the size of our church congregation. Roy reminded us to welcome new visitors and make introductions and continue our community outreach.

Next meeting is March 17 following Deacons and Trustees meetings.

We adjourned with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hopfinger



February 17, 2026

Lisa Knerr called the meeting to order at 6:37pm. Pastor Laurie led us in prayer. Agenda was reviewed and accepted MMSC Justin Kipfer, Ruth Hopfinger.

December meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted MMSC Justin Kipfer, Jennifer Eddy.

Welcomed new deacons: Jennifer Eddy and Vicki Silvernail.

Lisa reviewed one of the duties; securing lay readers, ushers, and greeters and which month each Deacon is assigned.

Pastor Laurie's vacation and mission trip dates: April 19, July 12, August 23, September 27, and December 27.

Angie Staniszewski will cover all 5 Sundays. Pastor Laurie mentioned that she knows of two 50 year members for 2026; Howie Barraclough, Jr and Wendy Walsh. If you believe you are a 50 year member in 2026, please notify Pastor Laurie. The roster of officers and committee members was updated.

Next meeting is March 17 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hopfinger



April is Alcohol Awareness Month- a time to draw attention to the dangers and health risks of excessive alcohol use. About 18 million Americans have alcohol use disorder- this means drinking causes distress and harm. Excessive consumption may cause liver disease, including cirrhosis and liver failure. It is also a factor in heart disease, high blood pressure and dementia. Colon, breast and liver cancer have a connection to excessive alcohol intake. Mental changes such as memory lapse or poor judgement and mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts add to dangers of alcohol abuse. Symptoms to watch for are increased time spent drinking, increased amount and length of drinking, plus changes in relationships and poor work habits. There are many programs which help people control the amount of alcohol used, and help to decrease the risks associated with excessive alcohol use. Please ask for help if you or someone you know has a problem.

World Health Day in April. This is a day that draws attention to a specific health concern world wide. April 7th is the day of this event that marks the anniversary of the founding of WHO (World Health Organization) that was formed in 1948. The theme for this year is "Together for health. Stand with science." This highlights the essential role of scientific collaboration and evidence based action in protecting human, animal and environmental health.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 25th. Clean out your medicine cabinet and remove old, expired, no longer used medications. Dispose of these at any pharmacy. Medications will be properly disposed of. Never flush medications.

Spring is coming and along with it colds and viruses. Enjoy the outside and change in weather. Remember to stay hydrated, get adequate sleep, eat healthy and wash your hands. Keep yourself healthy to enjoy this time of year.



If you use the kitchen or fellowship hall please sweep, wipe up spills on floors and counters, put dishes away and throw away garbage.



Thank you



APRIL 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5 Easter Dawn 6:30am Easter Sunday and Communion 10 am	6 Bible Study 6:30 pm <i>Debbie & Dave Best</i>	7 <i>Emma Hopfinger Mary West</i>	8 Bible Study 10 am <i>Dorothy Kellogg</i>	9 Sisters In Faith 5:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	10 10 <i>Kathy Abendschein</i>	11 <i>Kathy Abendschein</i>
12 Worship 10 am <i>David & Jude William</i>	13 Bible Study 6:30 pm <i>Ed Bey</i>	14	15 Bible Study 10 am <i>Patricia Baker Emily Lovell</i>	16 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	17 <i>Debra Kirsch</i>	18
19 Worship 10 am Newsletter Deadline <i>Wendy Walsh Vicki Sibernail</i>	20 Bible Study 6:30 pm	21 Deacons/ Trustees/ Council 6:30/7pm	22 Earth Day Bible Study 10 am	23 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	24	25 WNYACIC Spring Meeting 9am-2pm
26 Worship 10 am	27 Bible Study 6:30 pm <i>Laurie Bellucci</i>	28 <i>Marihn Wilson</i>	29 Bible Study 10 am <i>Ann Wilson</i>	30 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm		

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
11 Washington Street
Attica, NY 14011



SP The Spirit

of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Village of Attica

*April
2026*

St. Paul's UCC, 11 Washington Street

Just around the corner, first block down from Main Street.

Join us for Sunday Worship at 10:00 am

Sunday School for children K-7th Grade - Nursery always open!

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at St. Paul's."

Reverend Lauran Heidenreich

Call the church at (585-591-2705), stpaulunited@verizon.net or pastorucc@verizon.net

Website: atticaucc.org

May Newsletter Deadline
April 19th

Please make sure all newsletter submissions are in by this date. Place in the pink folder on the office window or e-mail to: stpaulunited@verizon.net