



That is Christmas

A few years ago, I received a Hallmark Christmas card from a family friend that said:
Every time a hand reaches out to help another ... that is Christmas.
Every time someone puts conflict aside and strives for understanding ... that is Christmas.
Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other ... that is Christmas.
May this Christmas bring our world closer to a spirit of caring, closer to the blessing of peace.

Christmas isn't about stockings hanging in a row and expensive presents under the tree. And contrary to just about every Hallmark Christmas movie, it's not about finally finding love and having that first kiss.

Full disclosure: I watch every new Hallmark Christmas movie. I even rip the full list of new holiday movies out of the *TV Guide* to ensure that I don't miss one. I check them off as I program them to be taped. (I record them to be sure I'll see them.) I note my favorites and share one or two really good ones with my mother if she comes to visit in December.

But that's just entertainment! It's not what Christmas is truly about. Christmas is really about growing our hearts. And around Christmas time, we tend to more readily greet each other. We see more smiles, have more parties, and gather with our families and friends. We're more generous. Some people even decide that it's time to attend a worship service again!

We're more likely to 'live by the Spirit' during Advent and Christmas. When our hearts are small/ closed off/ hard, we think only about ourselves. We're more apt to become angry. It's much easier to quarrel with others and be envious of what they have. We also more often turn to our vices.

Galatians 5:13-25 considers those things to be of the flesh. They deal with satisfying our wants. But the problem is that we always want what we do not have. And we do not want others to have what we do not have.

So, Paul wrote a letter to his friends at Galatia encouraging them to be free of their imagined wants. He saw that many of the early Christians were slaves of the world. Their hearts were too small to encompass the true message of Jesus Christ. They worried too much about themselves and not enough about others. They were swayed too much by what other people said. They were being led away from the true faith that he had brought them. He wrote to remind them of the ways of Jesus.

Each year, Christmas comes to fill our hearts with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control- all the spiritual fruits mentioned in Galatians. Christmas arrives to remind us of the birth of the one who blesses us so that we might be a blessing to others- not just one day or one month a year, but every day of our lives. Holy Christmas.



On-Line Donations—Do you pay your bills on-line?
Consider adding your monthly church donation to that list.
Donations to the church can be set up as recurring transactions.
Checks are mailed from the bank to the church and clearly indicate the donor.

We are now Live Streaming to You Tube on 10 am on Sunday morning. www.youtube.com
in the box up on the top put in St. Paul's Attica or here is the direct link
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi2hK62nkmeNAMJwMpchvJw>.

It will be also posted to Facebook after the broadcast.

Looking for volunteers to learn and do the sound on a Sunday am. This can be done right at your



Pray for our Shut-ins



Larry Taylor

Bev West

Chuck Kellogg

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



To everyone that helped as
Workers, donations or
buying a dinner for our
Sauerkraut supper

Profit of
\$1948.00



Attica Food Link Distribution:



Food Pantry parking lot
December 6th
10am-12pm

—1st come 1st served , Bring your own bags
This will be for the next six month period.
Sponsored by Attica Food Pantry

Annual Reports Due—January 2

If you're the person in any St. Paul's UCC Committee who's tasked with writing the Annual Report
For that committee, please e-mail your reports to stpaulunited@verizon.net by January 2nd for inclusion in
the Annual Reports booklet. Thank you !

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. evening 7pm
Charles- Wed. morning 10 am

Sunday Bible readings:

The first reading is *italicized*; the message text is **bold**.

December 3

Hanging of the Greens

December 31

Luke 2:25-35

December 10

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Psalms 85:1-3,7-8

December 17

John 1:6-9,19-28

1 Thessalonians 5:16-23

December 24

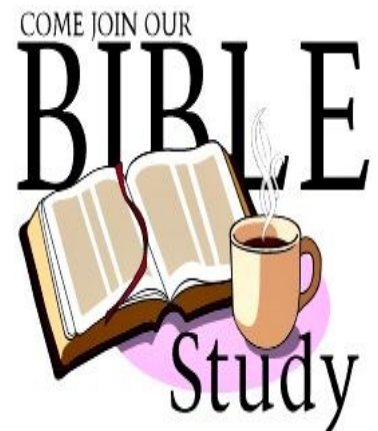
Children's Program

December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-20





2024 Offering Envelopes are in the church mailboxes!

If you aren't able to come in and get yours,
call the church office and Pastor Laurie will drop it
off at your house.

UCC Christmas Fund- Grace Upon Grace

This year's Christmas Fund theme is "Grace upon grace," from John 1:16: "From Christ's fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." This annual UCC offering expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families facing financial need. It provides direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with the cost of medical insurance, a thank you gift at Christmas, and funds to meet emergency needs. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution which will help to sustain this ministry of compassion and care.

Christian Education

Thank you

Would like to thank everyone that helped with donations of baskets
and items for their Basket Raffle.

They raised **\$610** to help the kids go to Dunkirk camp next year.

The kids say

Thank you

We need Hanging of the Greens
Readers for
The Nativity and The Christmas tree.

We also need
Advent Readers
For
December 10th

Can You Help?
Sign up on the sheet in the
Hallway.

help

If you haven't paid for your St. Paul's T-shirt,
please see Mary West to pay.



TRUSTEE MEETING

September 19, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

Present Members; David, Debbie and Marie.

Pork and Kraut signs in process courtesy of Jude and David.

Lapel microphone is to be fixed

Meeting adjourned at 6:50

Next meeting: Nov. 21, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Best



Preparing for our Seventy-fourth Candlelight Service

Candlelight envelopes received \$3450
Thank you to everyone that contributed

CHURCH COUNCIL

October 17, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Mary West.

Present: Marilyn Wilson, Deb Best, Lorraine Wolf, David Williman, Laurie Bellucci, Lisa Neary, John Brandon, Marie Lowe, Pastor Laurie and Mary West

Absent: Tom Baker and Chris Eddy

Pastor led us in prayer.

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Marie Lowe, seconded by Lorraine Wolf. Motion carried.

September meeting minutes were reviewed. John Brandon made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Laurie Bellucci. Motion carried.

Reports:

Deacons – Discussed candlelight service. Ushers, greeters and cross lighting was determined. Discussed Pastor Laurie's days off. There are no 50-year members for next year. Discussed 12/31/23 church service.

Trustees – Pastor Laurie's lapel microphone was fixed.

Treasurer's report - reviewed and discussed. Our last CD, of approximately \$14,000, will be cashed in in October. Worked on calculating an estimate of how much we lose on average a month – approximately \$670/month. Susan McPherson will be attending our November meeting. Pastor Laurie said most main line churches are experiencing 2/3 less attendance post covid. Unless we start recruiting, this is our reality.

Christian Ed – Heifer made \$1,060 last year, which has been spent. Christian Ed will be doing the basket raffle during the sauerkraut supper. Halloween party will be 10/29 during church. Pre-school was invited. Advent workshop will be 11/19 during church. 2 weeks later will be Hanging of the Greens. The children's birthday for Jesus will be 12/24 during worship. Pre-school has been invited to this also. A Christmas play is hopeful, if one can be found for the number of children we have.

Pastor's Report – November 5 is the Western Association meeting at noon. We are allowed to have two delegates. Anyone interested should let Pastor Laurie know. On October 20 at 5 p.m., on-line, is the installation of the President and Main Officer of the United Church of Christ - the first African American woman. It's on our facebook page. Youth mission trip was a success with 50+ people attending from 10 different UCC churches.

A motion to accept all reports was made by Laurie Bellucci, seconded by John Brandon. Motion carried.

Business:

T-shirts – 23 have been sold. We will keep the sheet up for a few more weeks. People can pay for them by putting money in an envelope with their name and Mary West's name on it, in the offering plate. Sauerkraut supper – signs will be on routes 238 and 98 and another one on 238 and Market Street by Gatgens. We have smaller ones with flags on them.

Everything is ordered except for rolls and butter. Hoping to get 4 bushels of squash. Discussed advertising. Nominating Committee – Marie Lowe and John Brandon volunteered for this committee.

Winter Fest – we received a letter asking to participate. It's \$10 for a booth and an answer is needed by 11/1. Decided the church will participate but at the church, not at a booth. We will invite people in for warm apple crisp with ice cream.

New Business – Marie Lowe suggested a vender-blender/table sale in March where we'd charge \$xx per table for anyone who wants to come and sell items – could be garage sale type items or craft items or Tupperware, pampered chef, or similar.

Next meeting will be November 21, Tuesday, a 7:00 p.m. Deacons and trustees will meet at their individual meetings at 6:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 with Pastor Laurie leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Neary



October 17, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:33 pm. Pastor Laurie led us in prayer.

Members present: Laurie Bellucci, Mary West, Marilyn Wilson, Lisa Neary, John Brandon, Lorraine Wolf and Pastor Laurie

Agenda review and motion made to accept by Mary West and seconded by Lisa Neary. Motion carried.

September minutes reviewed and motion made to accept by Lisa Neary and seconded by Marilyn Wilson. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Candlelight Service discussed. Deacons will be lighting Candles, ushering and greeting. Sisters in Faith will be Doing a cookie exchange and drinks after the service.

NEW BUSINESS:

Layreaders, Ushers and Greeters schedule reviewed. Mary West responsible for November. December 31st Service discussed. Deacons will Deacons will be conducting this Service as Pastor Laurie will be off.

Discussed Pastor Laurie's days off for 2024.

OTHER:

No 50 Year members for 2024. Suggestion made to post 50 Year Members confirmation pictures when recognized.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. with Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting November 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Wolf, Deacons Secretary



December Parish Nurse Notes

December starts the holiday season- lots of festivities, parties, food and increased stress. Take some time to nourish your spirit this holiday season to help you stay grounded. Seek ways to express joy, optimism, gratitude and wonder. Look for ways to participate in a toy drive for sick kids or volunteer at a community event. Do acts of kindness for essential workers or help a neighbor decorate their house. Take part in religious services or community faith events. Perhaps spend time in a park or backyard gazing at the wondrous night sky.

If you feel lonely, call a friend or seek out community events for support and companionship. Include family hikes or dance parties for your holiday get togethers to help increase your activity this month.

Try to get adequate sleep- reduce or avoid alcohol and caffeine 3-4 hours before bed to reduce the risk of sleep disruptions. Make an effort to eat healthy, balanced meals. If attending parties, try to eat healthy snack before going to decrease temptation for rich foods. Make sure if you are drinking alcohol to stay hydrated with water. December is Impaired Driving Month- always arrange for a designated driver to reduce accidents. Try to maintain your normal exercise plans during this holiday time.

Honor our WWII veterans on December 7th- Pearl Harbor Day.

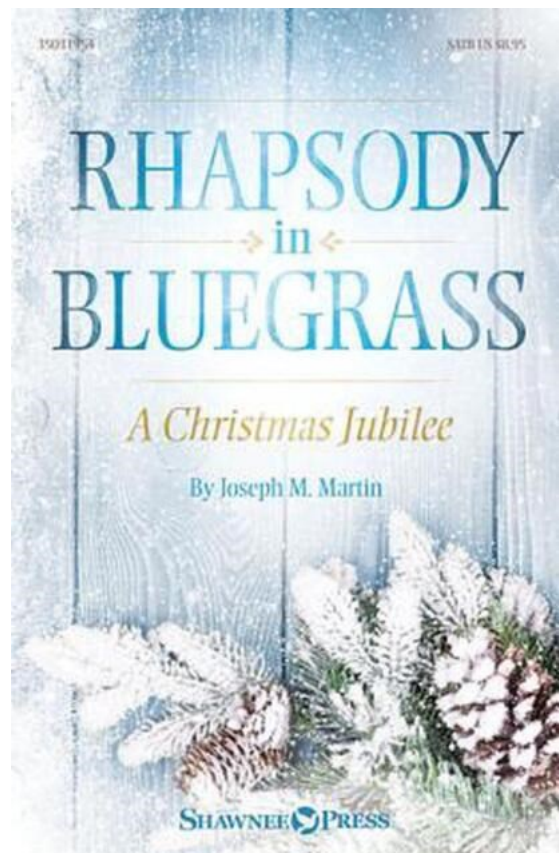
“ If you want to lift yourself up, lift someone else up” Booker T. Washington

Stay healthy and safe as you celebrate and enjoy the holiday season

You're Invited to a Bluegrass Christmas Jubilee!

Several members of St. Paul's choir will be participating in the Pioneer Community Chorus' cantata on December 17 at 3pm at Arcade United Church of Christ (UCC) (corner of Church and Main).

ALL ARE WELCOME!!





DECEMBER 2023

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Worship, Communion and Hanging of the Greens 10 am <i>Megan Simonsen</i>	4 Bible Study 7pm <i>Lorraine Wolf</i>	5	6 Food Link Bible Study 10 am <i>Michael West</i>	7 Chancel Choir 7:15pm	8	9 Winter Fest <i>Lynne Jacoby</i>
10 Worship 10 am	11 Bible Study 7pm <i>Sharon Bey</i>	12 <i>Enan Breedlove</i>	13 Bible Study 10 am Sisters In Faith 5pm	14 Chancel Choir 7:15 pm	15	16 <i>Levi Perry</i>
17 Worship 10 am Newsletter Deadline <i>Jean & Ralph Wirth</i>	18 Bible Study 7pm	19 Deacons/Trustees 6:30 pm Council 7 pm Diane Brown Michele Lovell	20 Bible Study 10 am <i>Pat Nolan</i>	21 Chancel Choir 7:15pm	22	23
24 Children's Pro- gram 10 am, Birthday Party for Jesus & Christmas	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed	26	27 Bible Study 10 am	28 Chancel Choir 7:15pm	29	30 <i>Martha Mengs</i>
31 Worship 10 am						

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

December 2023

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

January Newsletter Deadline
December 17th

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