



I love worship! All week long, I look forward to Sunday when we gather for worship. It is where and when I feel most 'at home'. But this isn't a 'reclined in the easy chair being entertained by someone else' kind of feeling. It isn't a 'make me comfortable' kind of feeling. Worship is a 'let's embrace God, friends, family, and even strangers' kind of feeling.

Worship is an action verb. It is not a duty to be fulfilled once a week and then forgotten. We come to worship not as a passive audience to be entertained, but as a congregation ready to search for what the Holy Spirit is doing among us. Worship is all about making time to joyfully praise God. It is a reaching out to reconnect and remember whose we are. We worship to obtain the strength we need to serve the world in Jesus' name.

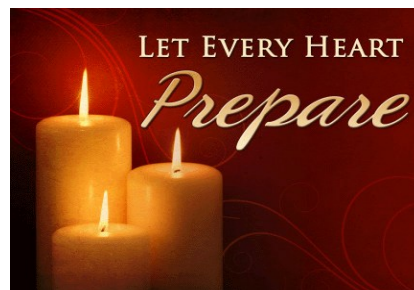
One Tuesday afternoon, my office desk was very cluttered. I had placed a large amount of items on it on Sunday. On Monday, I had moved some of them in order to have room to write the message- but had restacked them once I was done. Now, I needed to work on the bulletin.

"Yikes!" I thought. "I really need to recover from Sunday." But then I paused- and prayed, "OK God, I need to clean up this desk, but I don't ever want to 'recover' from worship. I never want to be free of you." In my busy-ness, I had temporarily forgotten that the benediction, which ends Sunday worship, is both a blessing and a charge. It is a sweet farewell- and a shove out the door.

That's the Christian life. God gathers us together to feed and strengthen us. Then, God scatters us so that we might serve as the Body of Christ. Advent reminds us that God sent Jesus into the world. Jesus was sent not to be served, but to serve. He was sent to spread the good news of God's love. He was sent to be the Almighty Counselor and the Prince of Peace.

Likewise, God sends us out into the world to serve together as the Body of Christ. But, God understands that we easily forget whose we are and why we are here. Too soon, we start to focus on ourselves as the voice of society booms louder than God's quiet Still Speaking voice. But then, Sunday rolls around again just as we determine that we deserve to be served - and begin to treat others as less than they are.

Worship reminds us that we need to hear a better story, one that revolves around our Triune God- a God of relationship. As we worship, we return to the rock from which we were hewn, to the well from which we were drawn. God reforms us into servants and sends us out. As we prepare for Jesus' coming and the New Year, let's rededicate ourselves more fully to our worship of God.



UCC Christmas Fund



This year's Christmas Fund theme is "When they saw the star, they were filled with joy" from Matthew 2:10.

This annual UCC offering expresses our thanks to retired and active UCC pastors, lay church workers, and their families. Your gift helps to provide direct assistance to supplement pensions, help with the cost of medical insurance, a "Thank You" gift at Christmas to low-income retirees, 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.

Pray for our Shut-ins



Bev West

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



Annual Reports Due—January 2nd

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 in Word format to stpaulunited@verizon.net for inclusion in the Annual Reports booklet. Thank you!

Attica Food Link Distribution:

Food Pantry location, North Walnut St.
December 3, 2025
10am-12pm

Bring your own bags
1st come 1st served.



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

Profit of \$1160

Squash was donated to Sharon Bey's
Thanksgiving meal, and food was donated to
Prospect Food Pantry

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**.

December 7

Matthew 3:1-12

Isaiah 11:1-4a,6,9,10

December 14

Romans 1:1-7

Psalms 80:1-2,17-19

December 21

Children's Program

December 24

Luke 2:1-16,20a

Matthew 2:1-4,7-14

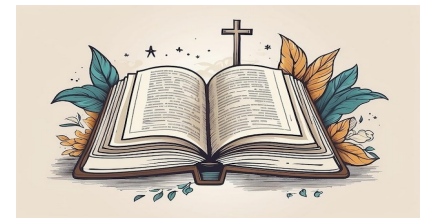
December 28

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms 148

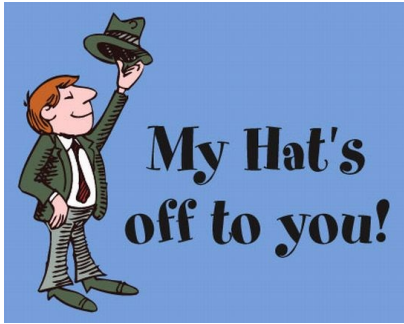
Matthew 2:13-23

Hebrews 2:10-18



COME JOIN OUR
BIBLE

Study



...to a group of people that love to sing

....to a group of people that give so unselfishly of their time, ambition and talents to our church program.

.....to a group of people who are working extra hard preparing many additional Candle-light and Christmas anthems.

.....to a group of people that appreciate recognition.

.....to a group of people we call

“OUR CHANCEL CHOIR”
(Copied from our 1958 St. Paul's Newsletter)

Thank you to everyone that donated or supported
the Christian Education's
Dunkirk Campers Basket raffle.

They had a record year.

59 Baskets
Raising \$780 for our campers

The committee and kids
Thank you



Pastoral Relations Meeting
November 9, 2025

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Pastor Laurie.
Present were Bev, Debbie, Laurie B., Christopher, Ellenor and Pastor Laurie.
Introductions of the confirmand's were made.
No problems or suggestions were given to members to discuss.
Pastor Laurie has 5 days scheduled off for 2026 and Laurie B. has made arrangements for coverage.
Being a Congressional Church was discussed with the confirmands.

Respectfully,
Debbie Best

LOCAL MISSION

Local mission committee met on November 12, 2025 and voted to send \$1000 to the Attica Basket Committee to be used for food for needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. This money will be taken from Charles Williman Memorial fund.



WINTERFEST AT ST. PAUL'S

Movie Times: Children's movie 1 pm in the sanctuary
The Chosen "Holy Night" 5:30 pm



Free refreshments

Daytime: Applecrisp, ice cream, mulled cider
9am until sold out



CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Peters at 6:55 pm
Members present Ruth Hopfinger, Laurie Bellucci, Jeff Peters, John Brandon, Justin Kipfer, Lynn Jacoby, Lisa Knerr, Marie Lowe, David Williman, Pastor Laurie.
Pastor Laurie led in prayer.

October agenda - MMSC Laurie and Ruth
September minutes- MMSC Marie, David

Reports

Deacons- see report
Trustees- see report
Treasurer- IT fund is \$0- new iPad purchased. MMSC for new iPad case- Marie, Laurie
Christian Education- no report
Pastor's report- Nov 2nd- Annual WNY conference meeting
MMSC to accept all reports- Laurie, Justin

Old Business

Sauerkraut Supper- community bells will play, ads to be done in Penny saver, Facebook and downtown sign. Signs will be placed around town. David stated will need to do new lawn signs for next year. Supplies have been ordered. Squash making went well, applesauce and coleslaw will be done.

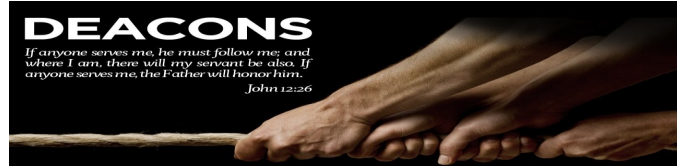
New Business

Winterfest- Dec 13th. Council to do warm apple crisp
Movie night- open to community. Will plan to do Sight and Sound production of The Miracle of Christmas .
Committee nominations- outgoing members to get replacements

Next meeting Nov 16th @11 am

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer @7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Lowe council Secretary



Deacon's Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025

Laurie Bellucci called the meeting to order at 6:36. Pastor Laurie led us in prayer. Agenda was reviewed and accepted MMSC John Brandon, Ruth Hopfinger. September meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted MMSC Justin Kipfer, Lisa Knerr.

Picture of 50 year members is on display downstairs and was in the newsletter. We discussed acolytes and ushers for the Candlelight Service on November 23rd. Trustees will set up the cross after morning worship.

Reviewed the ushers/greeters/lay leaders chart. Please volunteer by signing up on the charts in hallway.

Confirmands and their mentors will light the candles for our Christmas Eve Service at 11pm.

Discussed names of members to join council.

Next meeting is Nov 16th following worship.

We adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Hopfinger

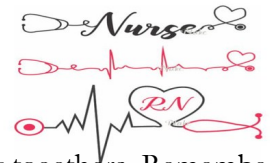


Congratulations
Waylon

Waylon received a trophy for Defensive player of the year with 54 unassisted tackles and 14 assisted tackles.

Way to Go!!!

December Parish Nurse Notes



December- continuing holiday times. This month is busy with holiday plans and get togethers. Remember to pace yourself- we get so caught up in the excitement and planning for Christmas that we sometimes forget to care for ourselves. Try to keep a schedule of healthy routine meals, adequate sleep and continued exercise. December is also flu season so remember to get your flu shot, wash your hands, and get good rest.

The first week of December is Handwashing Awareness Week. Proper Handwashing is the first and most important defense against germs. Wash your hands with warm, running water, use plenty of soap, scrub your hands and fingers for about 20 seconds and rinse thoroughly. Wash your hands before preparing food, before and after eating, after using the bathroom, after sneezing or coughing, and whenever hands are soiled. If you're unable to wash your hands, use adequate amount of hand sanitizer to decrease germs.

Impaired Driving Prevention is in December. Plan ahead to have a designated driver when you are out to reduce potential accidents involving alcohol.

Safe Toy Month is also in December. This is to draw attention to proper identification of age appropriate toys. Age designation of toy use is important to prevent accidents involving toys and games. Read the labels for age designation for toys before you purchase.

Seasonal Affect Disorder (SAD) occurs in winter months as we experience less sunshine and decreased interactions due to weather. This can present as a gloomy attitude, decreased interest in activities, and change in sleep patterns. Light therapy has been used with some improvements in symptoms. Try to get outside in fresh air and sunshine, exercise can increase "good feelings", try to socialize more. If you are still having problems, consider counseling for other options.



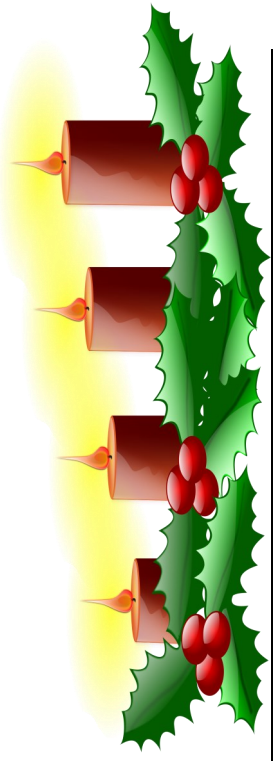
Congratulations to Ed Bey.

Ed was presented from the village as
Veteran of the Year.



Way to Go Ed!

DECEMBER 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Bible Study 6:30pm	2	3 Food Link Bible Study 10 am <i>Megan Simonsen</i>	4 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm <i>Lorraine Wolf</i>	5	6 <i>Michael West</i>
7 Worship and Communion 10 am	8 Bible Study 6:30pm	9 <i>Lynne Jacoby</i>	10 Bible Study 10 am	11 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm <i>Sharon Bey</i>	12 <i>Evann Breedlove</i>	13 Winterfest Apple Crisp Giveaway 1pm children's movie, 5:30 Holy Night movie
14 Worship 10 am	15 Bible Study 6:30pm	16 Deacons/Trustees Council meeting 6:30/7pm <i>Levi Perry</i>	17 Bible Study 10 am <i>Jean & Ralph Wirth</i>	18 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	19 Sisters In Faith <i>Dianne Brown Michele Lovell</i>	20
21 Worship & Childrens Program 10 am Newsletter deadline	22 No Bible Study	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 11 pm	25 Merry Christmas Office closed 	26	27
28 Worship 10 am	29 No Bible Study	30 <i>Martha Mengs</i>	31			

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

December
2025



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

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 21st

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