



Treasure

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.- Matthew 6:21

Treasure isn't an easily defined idea. Sometimes it's the last photo taken of someone who's now passed on into their heavenly life. Sometimes it's a mere ticket stub. Sometimes it's a gift of great worth.

Treasure isn't always something tangible. Every Advent, we receive the gift of Jesus as God Incarnate. Each Lent, we're given another opportunity to reassess our cherished relationship with our Savior. As we do this, Jesus reminds us that the blessed life isn't found in what we have- or even in what we have accomplished. Instead, the blessed life is all about where we place our priorities.

As Christians, our priority should be about being rich towards our Triune God. Our Savior directs us to our Creator, the one who sets us free to be the people we're meant to be. Jesus also points us towards the Holy Spirit as the one who empowers us to be the people God envisions us to be. In return, they point us back to Christ Jesus.

They also gift us with life- a life we're to treasure and share with others. When we serve in God's name, we don't just survive, we thrive- for we've allowed God's provision to overflow in us. When we allow God's provision to overflow in us, we move into a life of faith and trust. We trust that God is always trying to give us good things.

But far too often, our plates are already too full to receive God's gifts. So, both Advent and Lent remind us to make time for God. This Centering Exercise can help us to treasure God more. Spend 15 seconds in silence with your attention just on being in God's presence. This means no ear buds, no distractions, no worrying about a future task. Just bask in God's presence for 15 seconds.

We can do this while sitting, standing, walking, or even lying down. The goal is to focus all of our attention on just being with God. Feel God's presence. Hear God's presence. Nothing else is required of you. No apologizing. No judging. No goal- except to spend time with God.

When 15 seconds seems too short, then center on God for 30 seconds. When 30 seconds seems too short, center on God for 45 seconds. When 45 seconds seems too short, go for 60 seconds. If something distracts you, including your thoughts, just start again.

If a time seems too long, go back to a previous time. Be gentle with yourself because this isn't how most of us have been trained to think or act. We're not used to this. So, take baby steps and show yourself some patience and kindness. It's Lent. We have six weeks to practice this Centering Exercise until it becomes a heart-treasured habit.



SAVE THE DATE

Easter Dawn Sunrise Service at the Attica Park
April 5th 2026—6 am

Pray for our Shut-ins



Russ Wackenheim

...and others who are physically unable to join us.



Valentine's Day Blessings

For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten
Son, that whosoever believeth
in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
John 3:16 KJV

*May Your Day
be full of Love!*

The Attica Food Pantry
Located at
121 Prospect Street

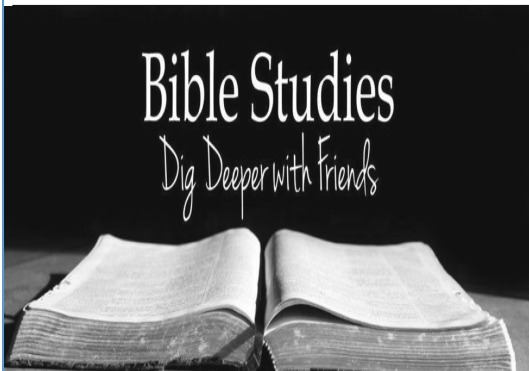


Open: Tuesday and Fridays
9 am to 12 Noon



ATTENTION DUNKIRK CAMPERS

Online registration is now open.
Please sign-up on the sheet in the hallway.



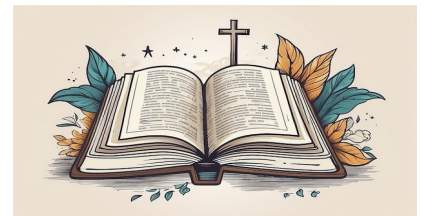
Sunday Bible readings: The first reading is *italicized*; the message text is **bold**.

February 1
Matthew 5:1-12
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

February 8
Psalms 112:1,4-9b
Matthew 5:13-16

February 15
Matthew 17:1-13
Exodus 24:15-18

February 22
Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19



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



WELCOME NEW MEMEBRS



Souper Bowl of Caring- February 8

Our youth will collect your “noisy money” (coins) on Super Bowl Sunday. All money collected will support the Attica Food Pantry. The total will be reported to the Souper Bowl website. **You may also donate food items.** Thank you for supporting our youth and Food Pantry on Super Bowl Sunday!



BASKET RAFFLE

Support our Dunkirk Campers
by making a donation to the basket raffle
being held during the Pancake Breakfast
Leave baskets or new items outside the office by February 8th.



SAVE THE DATE

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

February 15, 2026
8 am to 12 Noon

Pancake Breakfast with sausage, fruit, faschnauts, juice and coffee

Volunteers are needed for kitchen help, servers.
Sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Meeting Minutes December 16, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Peters at 6:28 pm.

Members present – Jeff Peters, Lynn Jacoby, Justin Kipfer, Laurie Bellucci, Lisa Knerr, Ruth Hopfinger, Pastor Laurie, David Williman, John Brandon, Treasurer Susan McPherson.

Pastor Laurie led in prayer.

December agenda was reviewed – MMSC by Ruth and Laurie – all approved – motion carried.

November minutes were reviewed – MMSC by Laurie and Justin – all approved – motion carried.

Budget for 2026 was reviewed with Susan (Pastor and Laurie were excused due to discussions of their salaries). Pastor salary was proposed for a 3% increase. Secretary salary will increase to \$16/hr. The line for Dunkirk Scholarship will decrease from \$750 to \$250. A new account will be created for Local Mission and will be funded \$1000 from proceeds from Sauerkraut Supper proceeds.

REPORTS:

Deacons-see report

Trustees-see report

Treasurer-discussed financials, as well as overall giving, there will be a drop off of approximately \$9K from 2025 if no changes are made in giving. This is because of member attrition in 2025.

Christian Education-Birthday party for Jesus was discussed, December 21, 2025 immediately following our church service.

Pastor's report- will be out of town 12/25-1/2/26.

MMSC for all reports by Laurie and Ruth, all approved motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Winterfest was discussed. John mentioned that the concert on Friday of Winterfest was excellent. Other members that attended agreed. Jeff discussed Winterfest at St. Paul's. Overall attendance was less than ideal, with minimum profits. This was attributed to a few factors, mainly weather was not cooperative. Planning ahead for next year, our hours open will be reduced...starting and ending time to be determined, but a starting time of 10 or 11 was discussed. Also, part of the discussion was having a children's activity (such as ornament making) in addition

Also, part of the discussion was having a children's activity (such as ornament making) in addition to free apple crisp, cider and movies.

Nominations are still needed...2 deacons, 1 trustee, 1 Christian Ed, 1 Local Mission, 1 Investment, 1 Pastoral Relations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sally Dawson's membership...MMSC Ruth and John MMSC all approved motion carried.

Date for annual meeting was set for January 18, 2026. January 25th will be installation of new council and committee members.

Date for Free Community Pancake Breakfast was also set for February 15, 2026. Also discussed that it will permanently be the Sunday before Ash Wednesday each year. Pastor also asked about Easter Sunrise Service. Jeff will reserve the pavilion after the 1st of the year, similar to last year.

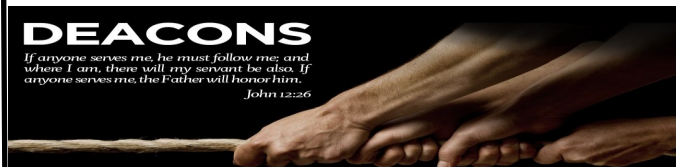
Council also received a correspondence from a member of the Community Bell Choir requesting that St. Paul's allows our bells to be used again next year. This decision will be tabled until a later date. Pastor and council want to thank Marie, John and Laurie for their years of service on church council.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

MMSC_____all approved motion carried.

There will be a meeting December 28, 2025 to approve budget.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Peters, Council Pres.



Deacon's Meeting Minutes—December 16, 2026
Deacons met briefly before full council meeting to go end of the year items.
Thank you to John Brandon and Laurie Bellucci for their years of service to Council
Sincerely,
Ruth Hopfinger



February Parish Nurse Notes



February is from the Latin term Februa which means to cleanse. It is synonymous with purification; the process of making something spiritually or ceremonially clean. A time for getting rid of the old to welcome spring (probably later in WNY).

February is know for Valentine's Day and this heart related items. It is also American Heart Association month. This is a month the AHA stresses the need for heart health and awareness. Learn the signs of cardiac concerns : Chest pain or pressure which may extend to shoulder blades, throat/jaw, shortness of breath, sweating, dizziness, nausea or overall feeling of unwell. If you or someone else experiences any of these symptoms, call 911 immediately. Quick initiation of EMS improves outcomes. Learn CPR- many classes are available through YMCA and other community programs. Learn how to use an AED- we have one at St. Paul's located outside the office.

Keeping heart health is important to decrease your chances of heart problems. You cannot change your genetics but you can change your lifestyle. Maintain a healthy weight, eat less red meat and more fruits and vegetables, stop smoking, decrease alcohol intake, maintain normal blood pressure, exercise daily (with doctor support) and learn stress reduction techniques.

February is also National Cancer PreventMonth. Know the early warning signs of cancer; change in bowel or bladder habits, a sore that doesn't heal, unusual bleeding or discharge, unusual lump, unexplained weight loss, difficulty swallowing or feeling full quickly, hoarseness or cough, or change in wart or mole. Contact your PCP for examination if you have any concerns.

National Children's Dental month- make sure your children brush their teeth at least twice a day, teach them to floss, reduce sugary drinks and foods, and get a good dental exam. Early detection of dental issues can prevent long term dental disease.

As always, stay safe, eat healthy, get good sleep, exercise daily- even 10 minutes of walking is beneficial- cut down on alcohol and caffeine, wash your hands. Let's look forward to spring!

Purple Lenten Prayer Slips

Once again, purple prayer slips will be available during the Lenten season.

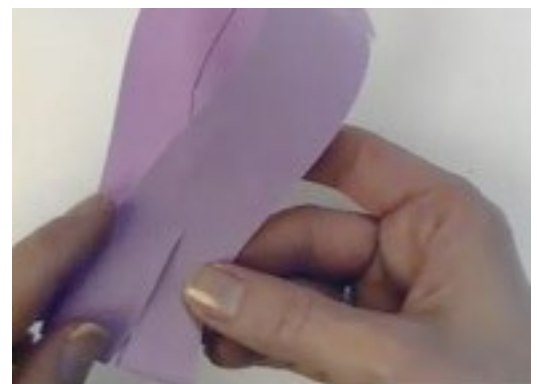
Write your prayer(s) on a slip and place it in the Offering Plate.

No one will look at what's written on the slips.

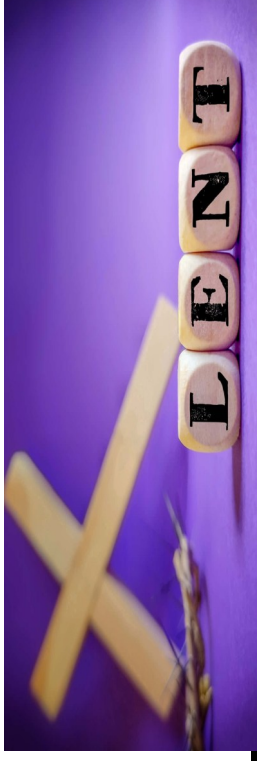
Pastor Laurie will pray over them

when she attaches them together in a chain.

We'll continue to add slips to the chain through Palm Sunday.



FEBRUARY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship & Communion 10 am	2 Bible Study 6:30 pm	3	4 Food Link Bible Study 10 am	5 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	6	7
8 Worship 10 am	9 Bible Study 6:30 pm <i>Justin Kipfer</i> <i>Danielle Harvey</i>	10	11 Bible Study 10 am	12 Sisters In Faith 5:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day <i>Susan & David</i>
15 Worship 10 am Newsletter deadline Pancake breakfast & CE Basket Raffle 8am—12 noon	16 President's Day Bible Study 6:30 pm	17	18 Ash Wednesday Bible Study 10 am	19 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm <i>Dylan Kipfer</i>	20	21
22 Worship 10 am	23 Bible Study 6:30 pm	24	25 Bible Study 10 am	26 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	27	28

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



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

February
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

March Newsletter Deadline
February 15th

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