



From the place where we are right  
flowers will never grow  
in the spring.

The place where we are right  
is hard and trampled  
like a yard.

But doubts and loves  
dig up the world  
like a mole, a plow.  
And a whisper will be heard in the place  
where the ruined  
house once stood.

"The Place Where We Are Right" by Yehuda Amichai, from *The Selected Poetry of Yehuda Amichai*, edited and translated from the Hebrew by Chana Bloch and Stephen Mitchell. © University of California Press, 1996.

At the Annunciation of Christ's Birth, Mary is perplexed. She even asks the angel Gabriel, "How can this be?" (Luke 1.26-38). After Jesus' birth, the arrival of the shepherds- and their announcement of all they'd seen and heard- causes Mary to ponder these things in her heart (Luke 2.15-20).

Mary wonders. She questions. She ponders. She admits that she's perplexed. Mary has faith- as well as belief. Belief tells us that we should always have a ready answer. But life messes with belief. It invites us to have faith. Faith leads us to increase our trust in God. Faith prompts us to recall that we serve a God who dwells in mystery.

Once we agree to journey with God, we will face times of bewilderment. We'll have uncertainties. Our inherited belief system will be challenged. We can choose to double-down on our belief until the place we stand becomes trampled and hard. Or we can allow God to loosen up what we have stomped down, so that new growth can occur.

When we invite God into our lives, things tend to become messy. We realize that we're really not in charge. Yes, this can be scary. Yes, it can cause confusion. But when we allow awkward circumstances to question our inherited beliefs, then our faith can deepen and become more vibrant.

In 2023, maybe we can resolve to have faith like Mary. Maybe we can more faithfully trust our Creator. Maybe we can allow Jesus to be our pilot. Maybe we can invite the Holy Spirit to play a bigger role in our lives. Maybe we can more often glimpse the mystery in which our Triune God dwells.

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### *Annual Reports Due- January 3*

*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](mailto:stpaulunited@verizon.net) by January 3 for inclusion in the Annual Reports booklet. Thank you!*

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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.



## Pray for our Shut-ins



Carol Shreder

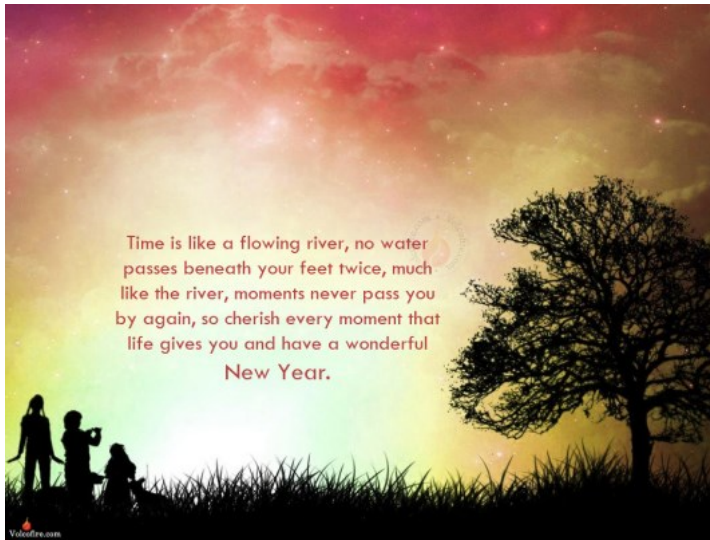
Larry Taylor

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?



As a reminder

The annual meeting of  
St. Paul's UCC  
is January 15th  
following worship.

# Meeting

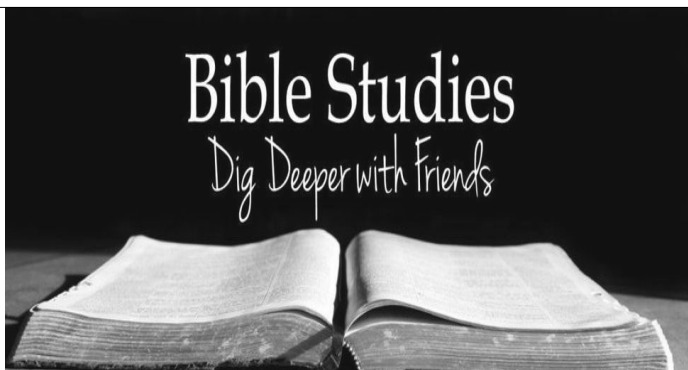


### Attica Food Link Distribution:

Attica Presbyterian Church  
January 4  
10am-12pm

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

We want to continue to keep our congregation healthy. If you have been exposed to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid, please stay home and worship with St Paul's virtually for 2 weeks. If you are having any cold/flu/rsv symptoms please stay home. As always our policies may change as local and state guidances change.



Bible Study groups will meet in our respective areas.  
If you have additional questions or concerns,  
contact the Convener:

Lisa Knerr- Mon. evening,  
Charles- Wed. morning

### Sunday Bible readings:

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

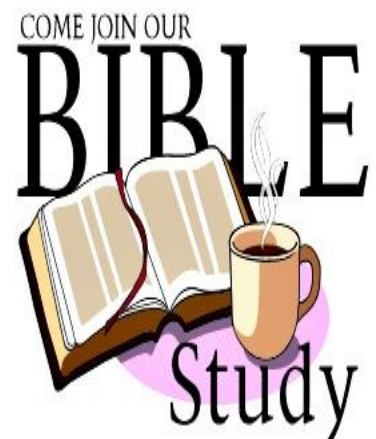
Jan 1  
*Isaiah 63:7-9*, Psalm 148  
*Matthew 2:13-23*  
**Hebrews 2:10-18**

Jan 29  
**Micah 6.6-8**  
*Psalm 15.1-3,4c-5*

Jan 8  
**Isaiah 42.1,5-9**  
*Matthew C 3.13-17*

Jan 15  
**Isaiah 42.1,5-9**  
*Matthew 3.13-17*

Jan 22  
**1 Corinthians 1.10-18**  
*Matthew 4.12-13,18-25*



## Scrapbooking Fund Raiser at St. Paul's- January 21

The Youth Mission Group is offering Scrapbooking on January 21 (and again on April 22). Amenities include: Carry-in help until 9:30am, 3 meals, afternoon snack, networking, fellowship, meeting the youth you're supporting, and the use of the new elevator lift! The cost is \$40 for twelve hours from 9am-9pm or \$25 for a half day.

Sign-up forms are available on the Offering Plate table.  
Thank you in advance for supporting our Youth!



## SAVE THE DATE

March 12, 2023



Pancake Breakfast with sausage, fruit and juice

More details to follow



Candlelight Service Giving Total for 2022:

We received a total of \$2050.00 this year.  
Thank you all for giving to this service here at our church.

It is all appreciated.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

### *In Memory of:*

Kathy  
Parents  
Donna Wickins & Rod MacLane  
My Grandparents  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Marie Taylor  
Mom(Marie Taylor) & Dad(John West)  
Uncle Dick & family

### *Given By:*

Mom & Dad  
Laurie Bellucci  
Debbie Best  
Lani Friedhaber  
Dorothy & Chuck Kellogg  
Pastor Laurie  
Larry Taylor  
Mike & Mary West and family  
Marilyn Wilson

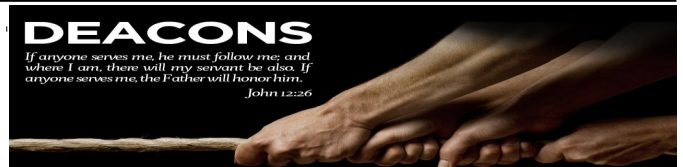
### *In Honor of:*

My Parents  
My Family  
Florence Williman, Jen Eddy  
My Family & St. Paul's  
My Children  
Dad(Larry Taylor) & Mom(Beverly West)  
Family

### *Given By:*

Lani Friedhaber  
Dorothy & Chuck Kellogg  
Marie Lowe  
Lisa Neary  
Vicki Silvernail  
Mike & Mary West and family  
Marilyn Wilson

Plant given from The Baker Family



November 15, 2022

Members Present: Laurie Bellucci, Lisa Neary, Marie Lowe, Mary West, Marilyn Wilson, Lorraine Wolf and Pastor Laurie.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Pastor Laurie led us in prayer.

Agenda reviewed, motion made to accept by Marie Lowe and seconded by Marilyn Wilson. Motion carried.

October minutes reviewed, motion made to accept by Marie Lowe and seconded by Marilyn Wilson. Motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

New Music Book: Folders ordered and upon receipt, copying will commence.

Candlelight Service: Child care will be provided if needed. Ushers all set. Media Minister will do slides and camera person set. Sisters in Faith will provide coffee hour following service.

### NEW BUSINESS

Lorraine Wolf responsible for Lay Readers, Ushers and Greeters for December.

Jen Mazur will fill in pulpit supply on January 1st. Motion was made to move communion to January 8th by Marie Lowe and seconded by Lisa Neary due to Jen Mazur unable to do communion. Motion carried.

No one responded to Media Minister open house. Volunteers needed for computer, sound and camera.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. with Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting December 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Wolf, Deacons Secretary



# CHURCH COUNCIL

November 15, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Marie Lowe.  
Present: Marie Lowe, Pastor Laurie, Marilyn Wilson, Laurie Bellucci, Lorraine Wolf, Lisa Neary, Mary West, Chris Eddy, and Chris Kipfer, Deb Best, Tom Baker and David Williman

Absent: Jeff Peters

Pastor Laurie led us in Prayer.

Deb Best made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Chris Kipfer, passed.

Deb Best made a motion to accept the October 2022 minutes, seconded by Chris Kipfer, passed.

## Reports:

Deacons – Jen Mazur will be our pulpit supply for January 1<sup>st</sup>. Communion will be moved to January 8<sup>th</sup>. The new music book is still being worked on. Candlelight service ushers and childcare is set. Sisters In Faith will be hosting coffee hour after the service. Christmas service ushers are set. Lorraine Wolf is responsible for Lay reader, usher and greeter sign-ups for December. Discussed volunteers for media. No one attended the open house. Still needing people to sign up for sound and video.

Trustees – Put away sauerkraut supper things. Got out winter items. Plow guys are set. Messages have been left for a shoveler. Balcony, now that it's open, the carpet needs to be replaced. Ladies room sink is in need of repair. Still looking for a child's sink. Organ guy took the battery pack and will give us an estimate, if he's able to repair it. New plates are in the kitchen with new cups. Discussed what to do with the old plates and cups. Cross will go up Sunday, November 20, after church for the candlelight service.

Treasurer's report – was reviewed.

Christian Ed – Advent workshop will be during worship this Sunday. \$555 was made on the sauerkraut supper basket raffle. Pastor's Report – Advent sign ups are up and also "hanging of the greens" sign ups.

Media Ministry – a cover/holder has been put on the iPad to protect it. No one came to the open house. Still looking for more volunteers. Sign-up sheet is on the board by the layreader sign up. Danny will do the candlelight and Christmas Eve service. David Williman sat upstairs last Sunday and plans on meeting with Danny this week to learn more about running the screens.

Chris Kipfer made a motion to accept all reports, seconded by David Williman, passed.

## Business:

Sauerkraut supper – Suggestions and ideas were shared for next year. We served 174 take outs and 60 eat ins.

Nomination Committee – still need a person for Christian Education and a Trustee. The rest are filled. Nominees will need to be announced on January 1, January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Deacon – John Brandon and Laurie Bellucci

Trustee – Marie Lowe and ??

Christian Education – Jennifer Eddy and ??

Memorial Committee – Laurie Bellucci

Budget Committee – Justin Kipfer

Investment – Justin Kipfer

Pastoral Relations – Lisa Knerr

Local Mission – Bev Myers

Pictorial – John Brandon will be taking pictures the four Sundays of Advent. Will need everyone to sign in with their address, landline, cell phone and email address to ensure the church has up-to-date information.

Annual meeting will be January 15<sup>th</sup>. Reports need to be emailed to the office by January 3<sup>rd</sup> at the latest.

Laurie Bellucci made a motion to put Candlelight service donations into the General Fund, seconded by Lorraine Wolf, passed.

Emergency calling procedure was reviewed. If a deacon or trustee is not going to be in town on a Sunday during the winter season, please be sure to let the respective head deacon or head trustee know.

Discussed financial information to be relayed to the budget committee.

Next meeting is December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. – our Christmas party/meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 with a motion made by Chris Kipfer and seconded by Deb Best, passed.

Pastor Laurie led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Neary

Council Secretary





## January Parish Notes

January - the beginning of the New Year. A fresh start and clean slate. Take this time to address your health status. This is the time to make a plan and schedule to improve your health for 2023. Not complicated or difficult.

- Schedule a routine physical- the majority of insurances pay for annual exam. This usually includes fasting blood work to check cholesterol levels, thyroid function, blood count and glucose levels. Early detection of elevated blood glucose levels, which may indicate diabetes, can be addressed and improved with diet changes and increase in activity (no one wants to talk about exercise!).
- Schedule a routine exam for mammogram or prostate exams. These are very important exams to detect any abnormalities. Early detection can lead to early treatments and possible resolution of problems.
- Dental care is an extremely important aspect of overall health. Periodontal disease can be treated effectively which will improve overall dental health. Again, the majority of insurances cover routine dental care.
- Have you received your influenza vaccine this season? See your health care provider or pharmacist to obtain vaccination. Are you eligible for a pneumonia vaccine? Preventing pneumonia/ decreasing infection is important to your health. Make sure this is up to date.
- Make a realistic goal/ plan to improve your overall health. Eat a few more servings of fruits and veggies weekly, decrease fat and carb intake, cut back on salt, drink more water and less carbonated beverages, modify alcohol intake, slowly increase activity, decrease or stop tobacco use. Do these gradually over the course of the year; try to plan for monthly changes. Even a slight change will have an impact on your health.
- Don't forget to take time to enjoy life's pleasures and beauties. Watch a sunset, take a walk and see the beauty of nature, spend more time with family and friends. Expand your mind with reading, studying a new topic, or trying a new hobby. Open your mind and heart spiritually- this will improve your overall health.

Make 2023 a New Year!

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*Thank you to the Streaming team for all the hard work you put into our Service throughout this past year.*

*Without your help we would not be able to stream our Church service.*

*Thank you to Eric & Dan, Marilyn and Sawyer*

*David, Jude, Debbie, and Lisa*



# HAPPY NEW YEAR JANUARY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Worship 10 am	2 <i>Debbie Best</i>	3	4 Food Link	5 Bell choir 6 pm Chancel choir 7:15 pm	6 Epiphany	7
8 Worship & Communion 10 am Confirmation re- sumes	9 Bible Study 7 pm <i>Pastor Laurie</i>	10 Hannah Hopkins Hayley Hopkins	11 Bible Study 10 am <i>Stephanie Brazis</i>	12 Sisters In Faith 6pm Chancel choir 7:15pm	13	14 <i>Jude Williman</i>
15 Worship 10 am Annual Meeting	16 Bible Study 7 pm	17	18 Bible Study 10 am	19 Chancel choir 7:15pm <i>Sara Baker</i>	20	21 Scrapbook Fundraiser 9am—9 pm
22 Worship 10 am Installation of Officers/ Committee Members Newsletter deadline	23 Bible Study 7 pm	24 <i>Michael Valtin</i>	25 Bible Study 10 am <i>Ruth Hopfinger</i> <i>Anna Hopfinger</i>	26 Chancel choir 7:15pm	27	28 <i>Charles Williman</i>
29 Worship 10 am <i>Laura Cohenbach</i>	30 Bible Study 7 pm	31				

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



Jan 2023

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](mailto:stpaulunited@verizon.net) or [pastorucc@verizon.net](mailto:pastorucc@verizon.net)

Website: [atticaucc.org](http://atticaucc.org)

**February Newsletter Deadline**  
**January 22nd**

**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](mailto:stpaulunited@verizon.net)**