



Epiphany

Often in the Hebrew Scriptures, we read words similar to “and she bore a son and named him ... saying ...”. The newborns were often named for the circumstances under which they were born- or for God’s purpose for them. When I visited Bethlehem, I met a young man named Epiphany. His parents were Palestinian Christians. They named their son Epiphany after the yearly festival celebrated on the twelfth day of Christmas. His parents wanted their son to remember that although he lived in occupied territory in Israel, he owed his life to only one

Jewish person, Jesus Christ.

Epiphany is celebrated on January 6. It commemorates the revealing of Jesus, as the Christ, to the Gentiles through the magi at Bethlehem. Christians believe that Jesus came to save all peoples. Many of the first Christians were from the Jewish nation of Israel. Indeed, the first disciples were of Jewish descent.

According to Philippians 3:5, the apostle Paul was a Pharisee, a Jewish religious leader. And yet, because Paul was born in Tarsus, he was a Hellenistic Jew of the Dispersion. Thus, he was at home in the Greco-Roman world and with the Greek language. Paul’s theological method reflects techniques of Biblical interpretation used by Jewish rabbis as well as various Hellenistic rhetorical forms.

Paul was well versed in relating to both the Hebrew and the Greco-Roman worlds. God knew that Paul would be able to interpret the world of Jesus for those in foreign lands. Although Paul never walked with Jesus of Nazareth, through a mystical vision he came to know of the Resurrected Christ. He traveled throughout Asia Minor and Greece preaching a salvation of grace through faith in the Risen Christ.

Paul’s way of serving God changed drastically after his epiphany on the road to Damascus. Instead of being intent on militantly defending his religion, he focused on spreading grace through faith in the Risen Christ. Christianity owes a lot to Paul’s service in the name of Jesus. We speak of God’s amazing grace. We tell of Jesus’ unconditional love for us. We thank him for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The year is still very new. We often just pass over the celebration of Epiphany. But we may still have our own epiphany. We can still embrace our gift of the Holy Spirit and like Paul serve Jesus in a new and graceful way. Godspeed!



Annual Reports due January 2nd. Please e-mail your reports in Word format to: [stpaulunited@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulunited@verizon.net).

A correction to the Local Mission article in the December 2025 newsletter:

The local mission committee did not send \$1000 to the Attica Basket Committee as stated in our 2025 newsletter. Sorry for this mistake.



Candle Light Service addition:

Thank Offering for Blessings Received

**Given by:** Steve & Joanne Ripstein

**In Memory of:** Family members who have passed

**In Honor of:** our Family

# 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?



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

Happy  
New Year

Would you like a 2026 Calendar?

Free for the taking

Check out the table in the back of church

## Food Link Distribution:

North Walnut St.  
January 7, 2026  
10am-12pm

Bring your own bags  
1st come 1st served.



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

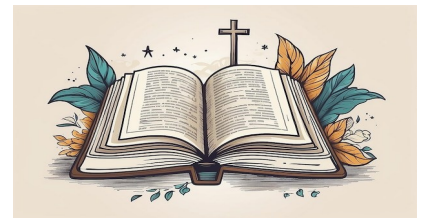
**Sunday Bible readings:** The first reading is *italicized*; the message text is **bold**.

January 4  
**Ephesians 1:1-14**  
*John 1.10-18*

January 11  
**Romans 1:1-7**  
*Isaiab 42.1-9*

January 18  
**John 1:29-42**  
*Isaiab 49.1-3,6b*

January 25  
**Matthew 4:12-17**  
*Isaiab 9.2-7*





## *CHRISTMAS FLOWERS*

### *In Honor of:*

Mom  
Roy Ticen & Lisa Knerr  
Our families  
Cindy, Kenny & Eric  
My family  
Children, Grandchildren, friends  
Family

### *From:*

Edie Almeter  
Sally Dawson  
The Kipfers  
Lisa Knerr & Roy Ticen  
Lisa Neary  
Paul & Tracy O'Neil  
Mike & Mary West

### *In Memory of:*

Dad  
Kathy & Jerry  
Mom & Dad, Larry  
Jason Henskee, Jack & Maxine Carter  
Ralph & Patricia Furness  
Our Grandparents & Aunt Mar  
Kenneth & Rose Marie Knerr  
Charles & Florence Williman  
Bill Gerhardt, Charlie & Helen Gerhardt  
Family

### *From:*

Edie Almeter  
Joe & Elaine Amedick  
Laurie Bellucci  
Diane Carter  
Sally Dawson  
The Kipfers  
Lisa Knerr & Roy Ticen  
Marie Lowe  
Paul & Tracy O'Neil  
Mike & Mary West

Poinsettias also given from The Bakers

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Thank you to everyone that supported our  
apple crisp, ice cream and mulled cider.



Special thank you to Susan and Laurie  
For making Apple Crisp  
And those who came and worked

We appreciate your support

Congratulations to the following students on making the First Quarter Honors

Merit Roll:  
7th Grade  
Christopher Eddy

Honor Roll:  
7th Grade  
Eleanor Eddy  
Levi Perry



Honor Roll:  
11th Grade  
Joshua Kipfer

Congratulations to Finley



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\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

February 15, 2026  
8 am to 12 Noon

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

More details to follow





Council Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Peters @ 10:50am  
Members present- Lynn Jacoby, Lisa Knerr, Roy Ticen,  
Laurie Bellucci, David Williman, Jeff Peters, Justin Kipfer,  
Ruth Hopfinger, Marie Lowe, John Brandon, Pastor Laurie.  
Pastor Laurie led in prayer.

November agenda was reviewed and addition to local mission added to New Business. MMSC by David and Ruth- all approved - motion carried  
October minutes reviewed- MMSC by Laurie and John- all approved, motion carried.

**Reports**

Deacons- see report  
Trustees- see report  
Treasurer- discussed financials  
Christian Education- Advent workshop 11/23 during church  
Pastor Laurie- has mandatory online class 11/17-will work from home  
MMSC by Justin and Laurie-all approved, motion carried.

**Old Business**

Sauerkraut Supper Review- overall successful. Did have additional expenses for supplies. Total of 217 meals- 158 takeout, 59 eat in. Profit of \$1160. Also \$160 in donations from leftover food. Sharon Bey bought 3 gallons of squash for Thanksgiving meals. 40 dinners were given to Prospect St food pantry. Profit will be used for special events.

Winterfest- apple crisp and mulled cider will be provided. 2 movies will be shown. Popcorn will be served. Event is free

Nominations for 2026- Jennifer Eddy for Deacon, still need one, Tom Baker for Trustee, Jennifer Eddy for Christian Education, Beverly Myers for Local Mission, Cris Mahoney for Memorial, Justin Kipfer for Investment, and Lisa Knerr for Pastoral Relations.

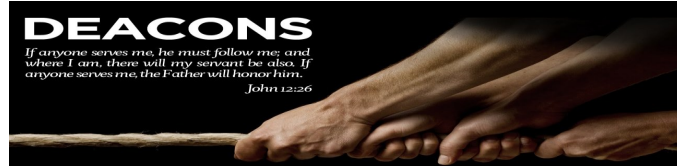
**New Business**

Social Media- Anna Hopfinger will head website, Facebook, and other forms of social media.  
Funds from Candlelight Service to Property Improvement Fund.  
Local mission- suggest donation to school for Thanksgiving dinner for needy families.

Adjourned with Lord's Prayer- MMSC by Marie and Justin.

Next meeting December 16th @ 6:00-potluck. Susan McPherson will attend meeting to assist with budget for 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Lowe,  
Council Secretary



Deacon's Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2025

Laurie Bellucci called the meeting to order at 11:58am. Pastor Laurie led us in prayer. Agenda was reviewed and accepted MMSC Ruth Hopfinger, John Brandon. October meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted MMSC Justin Kipfer, John Brandon.

Candlelight Service is Sunday, November 23rd at 7pm. Acolytes are set, ushers are needed.

We reviewed lay readers/ushers/greeters charts. Thank you to everyone who has signed up. Ushers are needed for Christmas Eve service at 11pm.

Pastor Laurie has put in for 5 Sundays off in 2026; with one being the mission trip. Laurie has secured Angie for each date.

Next meeting is December 16th.  
We adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Hopfinger

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TRUSTEES'S MINUTES  
November 16, 2025

1. Candlelight Service—prep discussed
2. Candlelight Cross set up planned
3. Winterfest discussed
4. Roof patch job?
5. Permanent Sauerkraut signs planned.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Williman  
Head Trustee

## January Parish Nurse Notes



January- beginning of a new year. Take the time this month to plan out your yearly health assessment and care. Make appointments for routine health exam, schedule bloodwork, schedule vision and dental exams, schedule your mammogram and breast exams, prostate exam, and colonoscopy. Make sure your vaccines and immunizations are up to date. Organize your health records. Complete a health care proxy and living will. Plan a wellness evaluation- including diet, exercise and sleep habits.

Resolve to make 2026 a healthy year for yourself and your family. Sometimes having a health partner makes this easier and keeps you more accountable for your health.

Decrease fats and bad carbs in your diet, drink more water, try to exercise daily- even 10 minutes of walking can be beneficial. Decrease alcohol intake, stop smoking and decrease red meat in your diet.

Glaucoma Awareness is in January. Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can gradually steal vision. There is no cure but there is treatment to slow progression. Routine eye exams can aid in finding and treating this disease.

Thyroid awareness draws attention to this gland and disorders. The thyroid gland regulates body metabolism. Overactive or underactive thyroid will alter how your body processes food and can affect overall health. A simple blood test will reveal an alteration in the function of this gland. Treatment is available to restore normal function.

Start the year in charge of your health and plan to improve health and wellness to be the best you can be. Stay safe, wash your hands and keep healthy- you are important to all.

Happy New Year!

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*Thank you to our 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,  
Dan & David,  
Marilyn & Laurie  
and  
Sawyer*





# JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year's day Office Closed	2	3
4 Worship & Communion 10 am	5 Bible Study 6:30 pm	6 Epiphany	7 Food Link Bible Study 10 am	8 Sisters In Faith 5:30pm Chancel Choir 6:45pm	<i>Debbie Best</i>	10  <i>Hannah Hopkins Hayley Hopkins</i>
11 Worship 10 am  <i>Stephanie Brazz's</i>	12 Bible Study 6:30 pm	13	14 Bible Study 10 am  <i>Jude Wiltman</i>	15 Chancel Choir 6:45pm	16	17
18 Worship 10 am Annual Meeting Following worship Newsletter deadline	19 Bible Study 6:30 pm <i>Aubrey Donohue Sara Baker Carter Breedlove</i>	20	21 Bible Study 10 am	22 Chancel Choir 6:45pm  <i>Emersyn Perry</i>	23	24  <i>Michael Vallin</i>
25 Worship 10 am Installation of Council & Committees <i>Ruth Hopfinger Anna Hopfinger</i>	26 Bible Study 6:30 pm	27	28 Bible Study 10 am	29 Chancel Choir 6:45pm  <i>Laura Marx</i>	30	31

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

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

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

**February Newsletter Deadline  
January 18th**

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