



Choose Wisely

Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ* contained so much graphic violence that it created controversy. That controversy sold theatre tickets. But Gibson himself edited it to soften the violence before releasing it to video.

The violence opened the eyes of many to question popular theology. Instead of being moved by Jesus’ sacrifice, they were repulsed by the idea of a God who would will violence. This isn’t a new response. Theologians from Ambrose to Anselm believed that only the violent sacrifice of a perfect and sinless Jesus could appease a God whose anger had been aroused.

Why do we believe in an angry God who must continually be appeased by the offering of sacrifice? When we apply this theology to other religions, we see the destructiveness of it. We find it appalling that ancient peoples required human sacrifices to appease angry gods. We see as pagan, anyone who sacrifices an animal on an altar.

And yet, we don’t even blink when we interpret our own Holy Scriptures in a similar manner. The problem with this kind of thinking is that it includes a God who’s always seeking compensation. We say that the death of Jesus squared the debt once and for all. But we’re left with the troubling picture of a God who inflicts pain on those closest to him.

Another traditional Christian theologian, Irenaeus, held, “The glory of God is humanity full alive.” This is a different way of interpreting what Jesus did for us. Irenaeus asserted that God desires a life well-lived. Since we can’t bring this to God on our own, Jesus, our fully human and fully divine Savior, walked as a high priest into the sanctuary, and placed himself in the offering plate.

The devil didn’t make him do it. God didn’t require the suffering, violence, or sacrifice. Instead, Jesus responded to what was happening by giving himself freely. He chose to conquer pain and violence by going through and then overcoming worldly strife. So, we’re to worship not out of fear of punishment, but with thanksgiving for God’s amazing grace!

Jesus’ way is a fresh way away from punishment and towards forgiveness. God’s consuming fire isn’t kindled to burn us as sacrifices, but to light our way to the living God. Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant as he undoes Adam’s sin.

The Rev. David Greenhaw, former president of Eden Seminary states, “Most people just use the Bible to confirm their own worldviews. They really aren’t searching for God’s voice in it.” Too many focus on verses dealing with sin and punishment as a way to keep others in line. But other Christians embrace passages dealing with God’s grace as a way to help them include diverse peoples and treat everyone as equals.

There are many verses in our Bible. The ones that influence our walk with God are the ones on which we focus. Choose with wisdom, not malice.

WNYACIC Annual Business Meeting- Sunday November 2, 2025

Western Association’s Annual Business Meeting will be held at Zion UCC, 15 Koenig Circle, Tonawanda. Registration begins at Noon. Worship begins at 1pm. The meeting (Annual Reports, Budget, etc.) begins at 1:30am. Two delegates may represent St. Paul’s UCC. Interested? See Pastor Laurie.

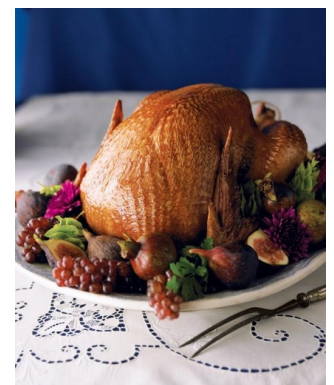
Free Thanksgiving Dinner

November 27th 12 pm—2 pm

Prospector Restaurant
4 Main Street, Attica

Eat in, Take Out or Delivery

RSVP A MUST: 591-2474



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?



Attica Food Link Distribution:

Food Pantry location, North Walnut St.
November 5, 2025
10am-12pm

Bring your own bags
1st come 1st served.



Sponsored by Attica Food Pantry

Food Pantry Requests for Thanksgiving Food Baskets

The Attica Food Pantry requests donations of:
Carrots, Peas, Canned Potatoes, Gravy, Soups, Cranberries, Macaroni Pasta, Mac and Cheese



Hanging of the Greens/ Advent Wreath

During worship on November 30, we will celebrate with the Hanging of the Greens. Please sign-up to help. The sign-up sheets are on the hallway bulletin board. We also need Advent Wreath readers and lighters for each Sunday during Advent. Please take the Readings that are hanging next to the Sign-Up Sheets when you make your choice. 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.6:30pm
Marilyn Wilson-Wed. morning, 10 am

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

November 2
Isaiah 1.1,10-17
Luke 19.1-10

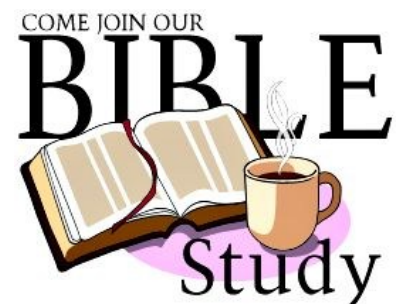
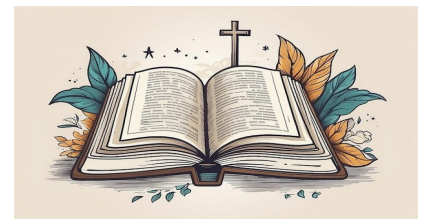
November 9
Psalm 145:1-9
Haggai 1.15b-2.9

November 16
Malachi 4:1-2,4-6a
Psalm 98.1a,4-6

November 23
Psalm 46:1-10
Colossians 1.9b-14

November 23-Candlelight
John 10.14-18

November 30
Hanging of the Greens



Christian Education Basket Raffle

Christian Education will host a basket raffle in conjunction with the church's annual Pork and Sauerkraut Supper to help fund scholarships for our Dunkirk campers next summer. Although wrapped, themed baskets are preferred, donations of any NEW items would be greatly appreciated.

Please leave donated baskets in the back of the narthex by
Sunday, November 2nd.



76th Annual Candlelight Service 7pm November 23



Bring pictures of those who are part of your great cloud of witnesses. We will surround ourselves with them during worship. The theme for the evening is based on John 10.14-18 and inspired by our stained glass window of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.



Looking to be part of our annual Sauerkraut Supper?

We are looking for volunteer workers to help the day of our event. Sign up on the Bulletin Board in the hallway. Any questions, please see Jeff Peters

Sauerkraut Supper—November 4th
Christian Education Basket Raffle
Get your baskets together now.

2025 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



POINSETTIAS: Red Marble White

8" pot with multi plants ~ cost: \$11.00

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

NAME: _____

DEADLINE FOR ORDER OF FLOWERS:

Order flowers by to ensure requests:
November 30th, money due December 7th
Please make all checks payable to:
Laurie Bellucci



Candle Light Memorial Worship Service

Sunday, November 23rd

7pm

Remembering our "Saints"

Has a loved one passed on since last year's Candle Light Service? We want your loved one to be remembered at this year's service, so please print legibly and place this slip in the offering plate.

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Death _____



September Council Minutes
September 16, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President Jeff Peters @649pm
Members in attendance- Laurie Bellucci, Roy Ticen, Lisa Knerr,
John Brandon, Lynn Jacoby, David Williman, Ruth Hopfinger,
Jeff Peters, Marie Lowe, Pastor Laurie
Agenda was reviewed MMSC- Ruth Hopfinger, Laurie Bellucci
June minutes were reviewed- MMSC Ruth Hopfinger, Roy Ticen

Reports

Deacons- see report
Trustees- see report
Treasurer- no concerns
Christian Education- no report
Pastor Laurie- provided dates for training and vacation.
Reports MMSC- Laurie Bellucci, Ruth Hopfinger

Old Business

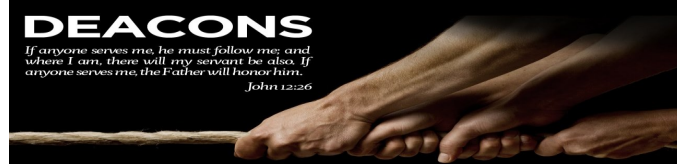
Review of July meeting- will plan next meeting to focus on church's
Direction. Discussed Back to School Picnic- will start planning for
next year Sauerkraut Supper.
Meeting on 9/28- will discuss next meeting

New Business

Election Committee- recommended all council members nominate
candidates for council officers.
IT- will need new camera and iPad- Danny will give input

Adjourned @ 730pm with Lord's Prayer

Next meeting October 21, 2025 @530pm



Deacon's Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2025

Laurie called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor Laurie
led us in prayer. Agenda was reviewed and accepted.
MMSC Ruth Hopfinger, John Brandon

The 50 year member celebration is set for October 5th with a cake
reception following worship. Bill and Nancy Colvenbach and
Debra Kirsch will be honored. John will take pictures.

Lay readers, ushers and greeters charts were reviewed.
Please volunteer by signing up in hallway.

Candlelight Service will be November 23rd We will decide on
Acolyte next month.

Our next meeting is October 21, 2025 at 6:30 pm

We adourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Hopfinger

TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
September 16, 2025

Refrigerator fixed

Emergency light and building light changed

Getting building ready for sauerkraut supper

November Parish Nurse Notes



November- fall is here and now the start of holiday season. As we start our holiday plans, remember to schedule adequate rest and stress healthy eating habits.

American Diabetes Month draws attention to diabetes and recommendations for treatment. Diabetes is a very serious disease that also affects the cardiovascular system. Diabetes can lead to decreased circulation, vision impairment, cardiac events, increased risk of stroke if untreated, and obesity. It's very important to be checked yearly for diabetes- many people have developed the disease before symptoms occur. Early diagnosis and treatment can slow the progression of this disease. Help yourself by maintaining healthy weight, staying active and eating healthy.

COPD awareness in November draws attention to this respiratory illness. COPD is a leading cause of disability worldwide. COPD leads to decreased lung function and reduced ability for normal breathing. There are many treatments for COPD to improve symptoms. Stopping smoking is the biggest action to reduce the effects of COPD.

November 20, 2025 is the date of the Great American Smoke out. This is a day where smokers agree to not smoke for 24 hours- a first step in quitting. If you or someone you know is a smoker, use this day to stop for 24 hours and support those who attempt this.

National Family Health History Day is November 27th. This is a good time to meet with your family and discuss overall health issues and family health. Take this time to gather family health issues to aid in recognizing familiar health problems and make a plan to control health concerns.

As we continue into fall and head towards winter, prepare your health care. Get your flu shot, update pneumonia vaccines and Covid vaccines if needed. Get adequate sleep, exercise daily and drink plenty of water. Remember to wash your hands! Stay healthy- you are important!




Congratulations to our 50 year members

Nancy and Bill Colvenbach
Debra Kirsch





NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship and Communion 10 am WNYACIC Annual Meeting- Zion UCC	3 Bible Study 6:30 pm	4 Election Day Sauerkraut Supper	5 Food Link Bible Study 10 am <i>Susan McPherson</i>	6 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	7 <i>Lisa Neary</i>	8 <i>Michael Hughes Elizabeth Mest</i>
9 Worship 10 am Pastoral Relations <i>Steve Ripstein Briella Breedlove</i>	10 Bible Study 6:30 pm	11 Veteran's Day <i>Carl Wiest Emily Peters Margaret Mest Cris & Tom Mahoney</i>	12 Bible Study 10 am <i>Jonathan Mest</i>	13 Sisters In Faith 5:30 pm Chancel Choir 6:45 pm <i>Arlene Brandon</i>	14	15
16 Worship 10 am <i>Joan Embt</i>	17 Bible Study 6:30 pm	18 Deacons/Trustees/ Council meeting 6:30/7pm <i>Madelyn Perry Bill & Nancy Colvenbach</i>	19 Bible Study 10 am	20 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm	21	22 <i>Roy Tien</i>
23 Worship 10 am Newsletter Dead- line; Candlelight Service 7pm	24 Bible Study 6:30 pm	25 <i>Jeff Peters Joshua Kipfer</i>	26 Bible Study 10 am <i>Karen Beidock</i>	27 Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving 	28	29
30 Worship 10 am Hanging of the Greens						

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

*November
2025*

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

**December Newsletter Deadline
November 23rd**

**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