

## THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

"The turn of the year seems to offer an opportunity to start over, to become more like what we want to be. This desire springs from a deep human need. Those who reflect on their lives usually see that they fall short of their own ideals and of God's way, and they yearn for something better" (The Upper Room, Jan.-Feb. 1998).

I came across these words while browsing through a devotional guide that I use on occasion. I found these words to be very profound. The turn of the year has become a time in our lives when we reflect on "who we are" and "what we want to be." Many times, the "who we are" is a person who needs some positive changes in his/her life. The "who we are" is overweight, is physically inactive, works too much, does not have enough free time, lacks direction in his/her life, and so on.

On the other hand, the "what we want to be" person is a person on the opposite end of the spectrum. The "what we want to be" person is a person who maintains an ideal weight, has a body like Mr./Ms. America, has a great career and achieves the proper balance between work, play, and family time.

In our desire to become "what we want to be" many times we set our goals too high, quickly become frustrated, and soon give up on trying to become "what we want to be" and settle for "the way we are."



I would like to propose to you an alternative way of reflecting on your life as you begin this new year. As you reflect, instead of beginning with those things you would like to change, lift up those areas that are positive in your life and bring you great joy. Perhaps you are engaged in some type of volunteer work. You may be active in some ministry at this church or another. Perhaps your occupation affords you the opportunity to help others. Maybe it us a simple act of kindness you were involved in over the Christmas season.

Hopefully, during this new year, you will find positive aspects of your life that you do not want to change, but to celebrate. As the New Year begins it is important to remember that God is behind all that we do for the good of others and ourselves. May you continue to be about the good work of the Lord until we are united in Christ as the Kingdom of God on earth.

God's Blessings,  
Pastor Pat





Craig Olinger 01/01  
James Barnett 01/03  
Ashley Beidler 01/03  
Kayla Himmelreich 01/03  
Ashley Knarr 01/03  
Carol Levan 01/03  
Jacob Mowry 01/03  
Elizabeth Schoellkopf 01/03  
Allyson Stern 01/03  
Matthew Williams 01/03  
Hannah Hetrick 01/04  
Bret Kramer 01/04  
Casey Krueger 01/04  
Sherry Kibler 01/05  
John Stutzman 01/05  
Nicole Baer 01/06  
Jenna Sassaman 01/06  
Abigail Stella 01/06  
Jaelin Valick 01/06  
Ryan Carey 01/07  
Shawn McGlinchey 01/07  
Elaine Miller 01/07  
Margaret Fetherolf 01/08  
Todd Koch 01/08  
Noreen Mayer 01/08  
Michael Provost 01/08  
Connor Reardon 01/08  
Ryleigh Soumas 01/08  
Alyson Zettlemoyer 01/08  
Christi Baer 01/10  
Kerrie Ott 01/10  
Jeanette Gorey 01/11  
Cassandra Harter 01/12  
Guinevere Harter 01/12  
Sydney Plucker 01/12  
Dylan Reardon 01/12  
Ayrton Laucks 01/13  
Maegan Robison 01/14  
Glen Schaeffer 01/14  
Jill Hoffmaster 01/15  
Emma Walizer 01/15  
Lisa Weidemoyer 01/15  
Kenneth Weidner 01/15  
Joshua Wentzel 01/16  
Michael Woerner 01/16  
Linda Yoder 01/16  
Christopher Zettlemoyer 01/16  
David Batz 01/17  
Amy Kepner 01/17  
Taylor Smith 01/17  
Jared Treichler 01/17  
Joshua Weidner 01/17  
John Leibelsperger 01/18/

Luke Voyer 01/18  
Jessica Wolf 01/18  
Tyler Wolf 01/18  
April Dancy 01/19  
Janice Kintz 01/19  
Bruce Rader 01/19  
Gregory Wink 01/19  
Kathi Fry 01/20  
Todd C Jones 01/20  
Pamela Miller 01/20  
Henry Peters 01/20  
John Burkert 01/21  
Laurabeth Werner 01/21  
Richard Brokhoff 01/22  
Alex Hoffmaster 01/22  
Alec Miller 01/22  
Mary Schock 01/22  
Wolfgang Schwan 01/22  
Rebecca Hauser 01/23  
Judy Raudenbush 01/23  
Kyle Brightbill 01/24  
Randy Geisinger 01/24  
Brenda Kuzmann 01/24  
Stacy Laucks 01/24  
James Schoellkopf 01/24  
Joseph Daniels 01/25  
Thomas Heinly 01/25  
Kristina Smith 01/25  
Melissa Ruemmler 01/26  
Joanne Shoedice 01/26/  
Kim Fella 01/27  
Scott Hauser 01/27  
Jenna Landis 01/27  
Stacy Maurek 01/27  
Deborah Mayernik 01/27  
Pearl Noll 01/28  
Elaine Bleiler 01/29  
Matthew Harner 01/29  
Dorene Leibelsperger 01/29/  
Samuel Ruemmler 01/29  
Jennifer Skipper 01/29  
Lonnie Stuffle Jr. 01/29  
Sandra Stump 01/29  
Penny Vojtasek 01/29  
Helen Kerr 01/30  
Eileen Koller Gilmore 01/30  
Steve Miller 01/30  
Mary Woods 01/30  
Madison Armstrong 01/31  
Samantha Baer 01/31  
Debbie Barnett 01/31  
Joyce Beck 01/31  
Ross Mckently 01/31  
William Spotts 01/31/  
Zach Warren 01/31

**If your birthday is not listed or is incorrect, please call the church office at 610-944-0406 so it can be recorded for future birthday lists.**



**January 1**

**8:55 a.m.** – Chris Vojtasek, Shawn McGlinchey, Melissa Ruemmler, Allen Crockett, Ann Heinly, Steve Wentz, Betsy Becker, Chad Walter, Ian McKinney

**10:25 a.m.** – Linda Schaeffer, Lorraine Bingaman, Erin Bogacki, Tyler Mawry, Tom Agnew, Ian McKinney, Paul Moll,

**January 8**

**8:55 a.m.**- Church Consistory

**10:25 a.m.** – Church Consistory

**January 15**

**8:55 a.m.** – Church Consistory

**10:25 a.m.** – Church Consistory

**January 22**

**8:55 a.m.** – Church Consistory

**10:25 a.m.** – Church Consistory

**January 29**

**8:55 a.m.** – Church Consistory

**10:25 a.m.** – Church Consistory



**January 1** –

**January 8** – Yvonne Petro

**January 15** – St. Paul’s UCC School

**January 22** – Mike and Cathy Berg

**January 29** – Randy and Barbara Hoffman



**January 1**

**8:55 a.m.** – Sarah Herrold

**10:25 a.m.** – David Balmer

**January 8**

**8:55 a.m.** – Sandra Dugan

**10:25 a.m.** – Melissa Ruemmler

**January 15**

**8:55 a.m.** – Family Service

**10:25 a.m.** – Family Service

**January 22**

**8:55 a.m.** – Tom Hoch

**10:25 a.m.** – Jean Weidner

**January 29**

**8:55 a.m.** – Nancy Boyer

**10:25 a.m.** – Gary Reinert

ACOLYTES



**January 1**

**8:55 a.m.**– Caroline Blickley & Kayla Himmelreich

**10:25 a.m.** – AJ Laucks & Brooke Mowry

**January 8**

**8:55 a.m.**– Bret Spayd and Mackenzie Miller

**10:25 a.m.**– AJ Laucks

**January 15**

**8:55 a.m.**– Brooke Mowry and Emma Bigg

**10:25a.m.** – Sam Ruemmler and Bret Spayd

**January 22**

**7:00 p.m.** – Connor Raudenbush and Jiasu Gore

**10:30 p.m.** – Angela Snyder and Brooke Mowry

**January 29**

**7:00 p.m.** – Ryan Levan and Caroline Blickley

**10:30 p.m.** – Taylor Pavlick & Connor Raudenbush



**The deadline for news and information to be included in the February Tower Tymes is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your cooperation.**



Thank You,

For the members of St. Paul's UCC

Just a note to send your way my thanks for being a winner of the "Pasta Basket". What a pleasant surprise! The basket and all the contents (and there were many) will be enjoyed and used giving thanks for your generosity. Also, the \$25 Weis gift card is much appreciated. We had decided to worship with your congregation on the 13<sup>th</sup> and to my surprise heard Karen Quillman (and Greta) present 2 lovely selections. What a treat! Music is great. Also, I wish to give a special thank you to Pastor Morris for welcoming us as visitors that day and making us feel at home. God Bless!

Sincerely,  
Nancy Keller



## January News- Happy New Year! From St. Paul's UCC School

December brought us celebrations for the birth of Jesus. We collected gifts for families in our school in need of some extra love during the holidays. We realized that we are thankful and blessed to have presents under our own trees. Our families are always excited to help others in need. Our parents were very "generous", thank you for sharing your gifts to less fortunate neighbors.

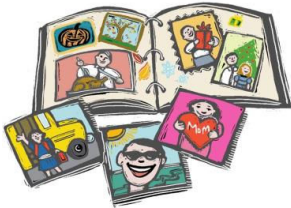
December brought us special visitors throughout the month. We had a certain man dressed in red visit on December 21st. We shared the wonderful Christmas story with the children. We had a fabulous loud and fun caroling session with the children, the parents and grandparents. Thank you Mrs. Greta Ertel for her assistance with her beautiful musical talents. Thank you also to Mr. and Mrs. Wildermuth with the special help of the day and Pastor Pat Morris.

**Starting January 3, 2017 we will be accepting applications for current students and church members for school for the 2017-2018 school year. Please see Ms. Brown or call the school office for more information. Remember our classes fill quickly, so please register early. Starting February 1, 2017, we will be accepting applications from the outside, so please do not delay.**

**DON'T FORGET- FULL DAY/HALF DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM, All Day Preschool AND BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE AT [www.stpaulsfleetwood.org](http://www.stpaulsfleetwood.org) and click on school or see Ms. Brown for more information.**

We are having a wonderful exciting adventure this year, with all the children in the journey of the children's futures.  
Respectfully,  
Ms. Peggy Brown, School Director

### MEMORIES



## Memories & Thanks for MaryLou Knerr

Nursery class teacher  
MaryLou Knerr has spent  
the last **64 years** teaching

our 3 & 4 years olds about God's love. We would like to celebrate her ministry (and express our thanks) by collecting memories and thanks from our church community to be made into a keepsake book. Please send any contributions to Stacy Laucks at the church office, [slaucks@stpaulsfleetwood.org](mailto:slaucks@stpaulsfleetwood.org), or place in an envelope in the offering plate.

### FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE



Only 327 meals were served at the November Pot Pie Supper but take-out orders helped us earn a profit of \$5,249. A \$5,000 donation to the general fund was authorized to help close the gap. As usual, an additional \$500 was given to defray utility expenses. Many thanks to patrons and volunteers for making it a successful venture.

## Christmas Tea Brings Glee



*So the weather outside was frightful  
But inside it was delightful...*

This year's Christmas Tea participants warmed up quickly upon arrival with tea and coffee, conversation and fellowship, and music that had folks singing along, tapping their feet, and laughing. The place was our church social hall, the date December 6th, our wonderful leader was Dee Eastland, and the assortment of delicious Christmas cookies were contributed by attendees. The entertainers were a twosome that originated from Falkner Swamp Church known as **The Lady and the Tramp**. Jean Weidner blessed us with the Biblical reading of The Christmas Story and our very own Alex Watkins read her recently published book entitled *The Spirit of Courage*.

Despite the pouring rain we had waiting for us as we departed, we will have comforting memories of our night together. As for the leftover cookies (delivered the next day by Joanne Sholedice and Dee to a few personal care homes), we're guessing they are only memories as well.

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In addition to the success of The Christmas Tea, the Guild would like to express special thanks to those that took part in the following: The **Eat-at-Hoss's Fundraiser**, the **Christmas Bazaar**, the **Tissue Box Collection for Phoebe Berks** residents, the **Operation Santa for Phoebe Allentown** residents, the **Bake Sale and Silent Auction that accompanied the Pot Pie Supper**, and the **Gift Bag and Christmas Card project for our shut-ins**. We especially appreciate the leaders that brought these projects to fruition. Also, special thanks to Guild President Sandi Stern for her continued enthusiasm.

### Newsworthy:

The Guild voted at their Dec. 12th meeting to gift **\$6,000** from their treasury to help **Close The Gap** for the church's fiscal year.



**Next Guild Meeting: Thursday, April 6th, 2017  
at 7 p.m.**



**The Offering Envelopes for 2017 are ready for pick up TODAY in the lounge. Please take your packet as soon as possible and help by delivering packets to family and friends.**

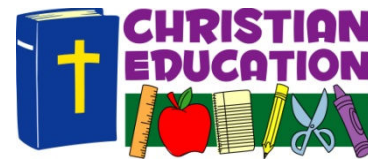


Thank you for all the Christmas cards and the bag that I received. That was so nice of everyone. Hope you will have a Merry Christmas.

Joyce Sprecher.



Thank you for the cards and gifts I received. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness. Blessings,  
Linda Sue Speece



### January Christian Ed News

In January the Sunday School will explore

**\*\*Patience\*\***

Feel like life is handing you "lemons"?

Go back to your Christian values and patiently work toward "lemonade".

- ❖ Jan. 1: Department combined classes.
- ❖ Jan. 8: Educational Ministries Meeting
  - After the 2<sup>nd</sup> service
  - All are welcome!
- ❖ Jan. 15:
  - Sunday school participates in the 9 a.m. worship service.
  - 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Paul's School celebration at 2<sup>nd</sup> worship service. Lunch after the service.
- ❖ Jan. 29: Sunday School parent conversation
- ❖ Children's choir all month at 8:30 a.m. (except New Year's Day)

Looking ahead –

- ❖ Feb.'s educational theme: **Love**

Stacy Laucks, Coord. Of Educational Ministries



## Food Pantry

On Thursday, December 1st, over 136 families were served including many new families who never attended the pantry before. The families were given a gift card to Boyer's grocery store to purchase holiday meal items for Christmas. Each family was also provided two frozen meat items, a fresh package of vegetables and fruit, a fresh bread item, a dessert, pasta, and various canned good items. It was our church's turn to serve and our volunteers did a phenomenal job at filling additional bags for the new families that we were not prepared for and for also withstanding the cold weather while handing the bags of groceries out to the families. A big THANK YOU to each of our congregation members who serve at the pantry each and every month regardless of whether or not it is our turn to serve. The pantry could not run without you!

Stallone Gymnastics on Pricetown Road did a food drive for the pantry during the November and December months and delivered over 5 boxes of non-perishable items to the pantry. Thank you Stallone Gymnastics for your generosity!

The next food pantry will be on Thursday, January 5th from 3:30-6 at the Fleetwood Community Center. It is Maiden creek Church and Harvest Church's turn to serve.

## Shopping Cart in the Narthex

During the cold winter months of January and February we will be collecting hearty soups and chili for the food pantry families. Nothing helps beat the cold then a warm bowl of soup or chili. Thank you for your generosity!

## Angel Gifts-

A total of 153 children in need were provided Christmas gifts this year thanks to our amazing, kind, generous congregation! 75 of the angels were from Friend, Inc. that serves families in need in the Kutztown, Fleetwood and Oley communities. The other 78 were given to the families of Nurse-Family Partnership program facilitated by Barb Werner. Again, thank you so much for helping to make this mission so successful!

## Helping hands:

This month the gracious volunteers for Helping Hands responded to the following: 1 transport and 2 help at the house. 3 phone calls.

Thanks to all the incredible helping hands volunteers. Should you or a family member need any extra assistance please contact Lynda Shenk

[Shenklynda@gmail.com](mailto:Shenklynda@gmail.com)



## Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> and Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Open and Affirming (ONA) Discernment Meeting

Our next ONA meeting will be Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> following the 10:25 am service. Dr. Julia O'Brien will guide a discussion regarding sexuality, gender, and the Bible titled "What about the Bible?" after a light lunch. Dr. O'Brien is a professor of Old Testament Studies at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Her academic specialties include the prophetic literature of the Hebrew Bible (especially the Minor Prophets), and the intersection of gender studies and Biblical studies.

In February we will view the documentary "Call Me Malcolm," a film co-produced by the United Church of Christ. The 90-minute film tells the story of the Rev. Malcolm E. Himschoot, then a UCC seminary student, who poignantly explores his struggles with faith, love, and gender identity.

## Youth Ministry Schedule

Date	Event	Time	Contact
Sunday 1.1	Happy New Year! No Youth Tonight		
Thursday 1.5	Fleetwood Food Pantry	3pm- 6pm	Leona
Sunday 1.8	No Youth (Pastor John Away)		
Sunday 1.15	Youth: Taize Worship	6.30 - 8pm	
Thursday 1.19	Winter Jam		
Sunday 1.22	Youth Fellowship	6.30pm - 8pm	
Tues 1.24	Hoagie Sale		
Fri-Sat 1/27 - 1/28	Winter Retreat	8pm - ???	
Saturday 1/28	Bear Creek - Skiing, Tubing, Snow Boarding	7a - 6p	
Sunday 1.29	No Youth Tonight (Ski Trip & Winter Retreat Weekend)		

# JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 8:55 & 10:25 am	2	3	4	5 Food Pantry	6	7
8 Worship 8:55 & 10:25 am Installation of Consistory	9 Prayer Shawl 7 Hospitality 7	10	11 Bible Study 9am  Chimes 6:15 Choir 7:00	12	13	14 Consistory Retreat 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
15 Family Worship 8:55 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of school worship at 10:25 lunch to follow	16	17 Bible Study 7pm	18 Bible Study 9am Chimes 6:15 Choir 7:00	19	20	21
22 Worship 8:55 & 10:25 am ONA meeting 11:30 a.m.	23 Staff 10 a.m.	24 Bible Study 7pm	25 Bible Study 9am	26	27	28
29 Worship 8:55 & 10:25 am	30 Property 6:30pm	31 Book Group 7pm  Bible Study 7pm				

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

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**Website: [www.stpaulsfleetwood.org](http://www.stpaulsfleetwood.org)**

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### **Our Staff**

Rev. Patrick W. Morris    Pastor

Rev. John Folk            Associate Pastor

Kim Adamson             Student Pastor

Mrs. Linda Speece        Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Sue Creswell        Bookkeeper

Mrs. Stacy Laucks        Coordinator of Education Ministries

Mrs. Greta Ertel          Organist/Accompanist

Mrs. Jill Haley            Coordinator of Music Ministries

Ms. Peggy Brown         School Director

Mr. Thomas Agnew        Sexton