



The Courier

St. Paul's United Church of Christ of Indianland
NOVEMBER 2020



BEING THANKFUL

As the calendar prepares to turn to November of this year, we are reminded that in the United States we celebrate Thanksgiving which gets way overlooked as we prepare for Christmas yet to come. However, perhaps this year, more than in any other recent year, we must stop and take a moment to be thankful. You might be saying to yourself, what in 2020 is there to be thankful for? That is a great question, especially in this frustrating, challenging, upsetting, quarantined and distanced time. What is there to be thankful for? There is a great deal to be thankful for and some things that we certainly would not want to be thankful for as well.

In Paul's writings, he offered thanks to God for many of the churches he wrote to, especially for the people; Romans, I and II Thessalonians, I Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, II Timothy and Philemon. He offered words or prayers to God for the people in these places and how they were receiving the gospel message that was brought. That, of course, did not mean that everything was going smoothly for these churches and their people. They might not have been experiencing a pandemic, or a quarantine, or some of the other challenges we have faced this year, yet they faced issues, disappointments, and life itself. How do we offer thanks this year for the life we have endured? By uttering these words to our God – "Thank you, God". It does not matter what we are thankful for, just so we are thankful. There is much we can be thankful for in this year!

Yet, our Thanksgiving celebration might be a bit different this year as may our Christmas, as was our Easter and Pentecost. However, we were still able to worship God at Easter and Pentecost and we will still be able to worship God at Thanksgiving and Christmas. It will not be like it was in the past, yet it will be what it is to be, and we can be thankful for the gift of technology, even as frustrating as it has been when things do not progress as we hope they will. We learned to be thankful for the gift of patience, even as we grew even more frustrated. We learned new ways to be in community, gathering in parks, driveways, talking through screens and on our electronic devices. We give thanks for Zoom and Face Book as we connected in ways we would not have imagined relying on as we did this year. We give thanks for the ability to be with family members even as we have been separated from so many, because of safety. We had to let go of some of our selfish desires, in order to keep others safe. We learned not to take so much for granted as life was restricted as well. So where do we go from here? What will we say this Thanksgiving when we are asked the

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Christian Education News

(Pastor's message continued from page one)

Jesus continues to offer the words of forgiveness and the extravagant love for each one of us. So, while it might not feel like a time for giving thanks, here we are. November has come and our God, our Savior, and the Spirit remain for us and with us. Let us give thanks for the steadfastness of our Triune God.

With thanks for all of you.

Pastor Martin

Sunday School

To all the children in our Sunday school:

We hope you are doing well. It has been an unusual program year for all of us. Not only for our Sunday school but also for the time spent doing your regular school work.

Each Sunday since July 9, we have been meeting at St. Paul's for Worship. During the Worship Service, there is a time when I have the Children's Message. Since we need to stay safe, children stay in their seat with the entire congregation. I'm not sure if you are listening to the services on our Facebook page. If you are able, I invite you to take time on Sunday mornings to listen to the service and especially the Children's Message. I also would invite you to bring your parent/s to church on Sunday mornings at 10:30AM. I miss seeing each one of you and hearing what is happening in your lives. Hopefully, we will be able to have in person classes sometime next year.

I wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving with your families. Take Care and know you are missed at St. Paul's.

Many Blessings to you and your family.

Beth Sikorsky

In September, a note with registration form/s were sent to all children in our Sunday school program. Even though we are not able to meet in person, I would appreciate the forms returned to either the church or to me personally. I do keep track of the children's ages, contact persons, emergency persons, and email addresses. Remember that there was a survey in the October newsletter that we asked you to fill out. Please help us discern the future of our Christian Education program in the midst of the pandemic by letting us know what our communication options might be. **Pastor Martin has begun a weekly lesson to post to our Facebook page on Sunday mornings for the children to listen to. You may check it out anytime after 9:00AM on a Sunday morning. Please let us know of any issues or questions.**

WOMEN UNITED FOR CHRIST

A reminder that all orders and payments for the **holiday sweet rolls are due by November 1st to Beverly Putt.** Delivery date will be November 19th. The delivery time has not been set yet by the Country Cottage Bakery but will be determined in early November. All who placed orders will be notified as to time of pick-up. If you have any questions, contact Beverly @ 610-767-3634.

Church Happenings Now and Yet to Come

The LLW committee is looking forward to the rest of this year's events!! The **Chicken and Pulled Pork Dinner** take out only meal was a HUGE success. The total profit was close to \$2,000 with a tithe of \$200 split equally between the Allentown Rescue Mission and Dream Come True. Thank you to all who supported this new adventure of a popular event.

The **Basket Social** is going to be a little different this year since it was cancelled earlier this year. A 3-day event including **Thursday, November 12th 3p-7p, Friday, November 13th 3p-7p and Saturday, November 14th 9a-1p** is planned. The reasoning behind the extended event is to limit the amount of people in the Fellowship Hall at any given time. The path inside the building will be clearly marked and tables will be spread out throughout the space because **the kitchen will NOT be open**. Advertising is underway and any assistance would be appreciated to help spread the word. Please see Dawn Vilanova to coordinate donations drop off or if you have a good place to hang a sign as this is a well established fund raiser. For those who win a prize, pick up will be Sat afternoon, Sunday after church, Sunday at 4pm or as coordinated individually.

The **Filling Sale** is planned for just in time for Thanksgiving. Each container will be **2# for \$7**. Orders are **due by November 15th** with **pick up** after church **Sunday, November 22nd, 2020**. Filling will be made, Friday, November 20th. Please call the church office or speak with Dawn Vilanova or Pastor Martin with your orders.

Finally, we are planning the **annual Thanksgiving Dinner** and have decided to offer **take out only**. We are going to offer one meal including turkey, filling, veggies, roll, cranberry sauce, apple sauce and a dessert. **All food will be prepared at the church but frozen turkeys and store prepared or frozen pies may be donated**. This is the church's way of giving back to the community with all items donated and monetary donations appreciated to purchase supplies. **Reservations are strongly encouraged by Nov 22nd to allow for advanced preparation**. Please call the office at (610)767-5751 for more information, to place an order or inform the church of any individual dietary restrictions.

The next LLW meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 11th, 2020 at 7pm** and all are welcome to attend.

Fire Side Chat with the Pastor

On **Sunday, November 15th at 4:00PM** we will be holding another informal chat with the Pastor. We are hoping to still sit in the parking lot, however, we may move into Fellowship Hall if need be. You might wish to bring a chair if we do indeed sit outside. Pastor Martin will be wearing his portable microphone and the FM transmitter will be on so you may also sit in the comfort of your automobile. This **month's focus will be on the topic of Angels** and what do we know and what do we think about them. All are welcome to join us and if you have something you would like to learn about — just chat with the Pastor!

PRAYER LIST

Current Need:

Debbie Budinetz	Jessica Smith	Sheila Doll	Gloria Newhard	Brenda Usher
Dustin Miller	Sallie Weaver	Karen Hantz	Jack Doll, Jr	Beverly Putt
Janice Beck	Stockton Rodney	Robert Knot	Carol McDonald	Mike Hartman
Charlene Petruska	Theresa Carbonell	John Weaver	Jean Hankee	Anne Harrity
Robbie Moore	Judy Silnik	Evan Hantz	Nancy Green	Andrea Coughlin
Zachary Long	Courtney Bloom	Kristen Meeker	The Bauer Family	Kay Bolus
Pat Neff	Vicki Hall	Cole Ruch	Kevin Reilly	Nigel Mease
Joseph Vadenya	David Jones	Linda Barkley	Aryiah	Becky
Harold Frable	Jeff Reihoff	Donna Whitman	Charles Wagner	Jerry
Linda Baumgartner	Logan Krick	Alyzah Borger	Diane Cimo	Dale Coughlin
Nadia Cosper	Julie Gelfuso	Jessica Harris	Kayla Bartholomew	Jeanette Haram
Terry Carlton	Debbie	Carol and Angela	Mike Miller	Orlando Zaya
Carol Williams	Carol Gardner	Kim Mickey	Darlene Blocher	Jimmy Hurstman
Sharon Green	Angie	Johnny		

Longer Term Need:

Darryl Wentz	Tina Rehrig	Brandon Snyder	Franklin Dorshimer	Joe & Deb McGearry
Russell Blakeslee	Deborah Peterson	Dawn Stattler	Karen Bet	Bob Bakross
Michelle Brosious	George Borger, Jr.	Marion Bossard	Sharlene Weaver	Shirley Cressman
Smokey Hartzell	Lori Rader	Pamela Martin	Susan Zachary	Joan Drey
Stan Butz	The Thomson Family	Kim Rey	Sam Steinmetz	Faye Neff
Jim Miller	Howard & Ida Bachman		John Hine	Darlene Hock
Joanne Peters	Rose Lanus	Dorian Arnwine	Margo Roberts	Robert Custard
Vicki Eltz	Jeannie Yehl	Linda Becker	Laura Rannella	Gail Bauer
Noah Iucci	Lisa Dotson	Pat James	Amber Steffie	Corey Doolan
Karen White	Ryan Holmes	Peter Rosales		
Janet Erickson	Cindy Hogman	Larry Rehrig		
Gary Kresini	Louise King	Edie		
Ashley Henninger	Mary Beatrice	Richard Vesely		
Katie & Maggie Paules	The Chupa Family			
Clark Plummer				

Those Who Mourn:

The family and friends of Dayla Austerberry.
The family and friends of Michael Truscott.



NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All events are tentative!	Check website	and phone for	any updates!			
1 10:30A —Worship in Sanctuary, online or via the telephone All Saints Sunday	2 7:00P — Confirmation Class via Zoom	3 7:30P — Elders	4 Bulletin Information is Due	5	6	7
8 7:30A — Contemporary Praise service — no communion served, in person only 10:30A —Worship in Sanctuary, online or via the telephone	9	10 7:00P — Consistory	11 7P —Worship and Arts 7:30P —Lay, Life and Work Bulletin Information is Due	12 Basket Social Ticket Drop off 3:00pm to 7:00pm	13 Basket Social Ticket Drop off 3:00pm to 7:00pm	14 Basket Social Ticket Drop off 9:00am to 1:00pm
15 10:30A —Worship in Sanctuary, online or via the telephone 4:00P — Fireside Chat with Pastor Martin Newsletter Articles are Due!	16 7:00P — Confirmation Class via Zoom	17	18 Bulletin Information is Due Youth Hoagie Pick up TBA	19	20	21
22 10:30A —Worship in Sanctuary, online or via the telephone Filling Pickup	23	24	25 Bulletin Information is Due 7:00PM — Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 11:30AM to 1:00PM — Thanksgiving Meal Pickup	27	28 Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas
29 10:30A —Worship in Sanctuary, online or via the telephone First Sunday of Advent	30 7:00P — Confirmation Class via Zoom					

OFFICE HOURS: The office hours vary. Please call the office to schedule an appointment if you need to. General messages may be sent to office@indianland.org or call 610-767-5751. In Case of emergency, please contact Pastor Martin Nuscher on his cellphone, 484-707-7006 or by email to pastor@indianland.org. Church website is www.indianland.org. Thank you.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

people & Places

- 2 — Lillian Field
- 5 — Sherri Heffelfinger
- 8 — Kirsten Bickert
- 11 — Ruth Doll
- 12 — Randy Trapp
- 17 — Beverly Putt
- 18 — Robin Beers
Cynthia Hantz
- 19 — Mikayla Bickert
- 20 — Karlee Farley
- 21 — Susan Lilly
Dixie-Leigh Bowes
- 22 — Carl James, Sr
Joy Muffley
- 23 — Lisa Strohl
- 26 — Kensley Rodney
- 29 — Marissa Rodney

December

- 1 — Debra Budinetz

Sensational 70's Club

- 21 — Susan Lilly
- 22 — Joy Muffley

Exceptional 80's Club

- 17 — Beverly Putt
- 22 — Carl James, Sr

Noble 90's Club

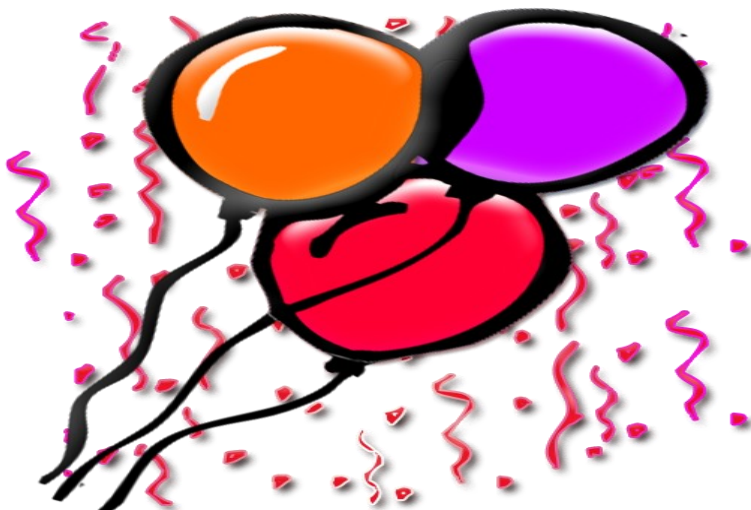
- 11 — Ruth Doll

Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 — Ellen & Pastor Martin Nuscher —
24 years
- 14 — Cassandra & Robert Langley —
5 years
- 21 — Phyllis & Gary Geiss —
61 years

December

- 3 — Claudine & Robert Fritz —
54 years
- 4 — Phyllis & Monroe Balliet —
55 years



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, we apologize. Please contact the church office so we can add you to our listing! Thank you.



OUR MISSIONS

November Mission: Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Houston teens learn wage activism from working adults like them

This summer, with a grant from the United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need offering, 24 high school students from an economically challenged Houston neighborhood learned about activism and carried out a local campaign for a \$15 minimum-wage law.

The idea came from the basic insight that many Houston residents find it hard to make ends meet, especially workers in fast-food and other service industries. The Rev. Darnell Fennell serves some of those people in both his callings. He is pastor of Just Love Church, affiliated with the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He also teaches high school social studies.

With a background in community organizing, Fennell knows people don't have to sit still for economic injustice. He knows the wider UCC feels the same, as seen in statements such as a 2017 General Synod resolution, "A More Just Economy: \$15 Minimum Wage, Living Wages and Job Creation." So he sought the NIN grant to introduce young people to local activists in the national Fight for \$15 wage campaign and involve them in learning by doing.

UNLEASHING POTENTIAL (formerly Neighborhood Houses) OF ST. LOUIS, MO

Denise Carter, early childhood education director, was well aware of a rather large need within the population served by Neighborhood Houses. Many of the families are low wage earners, 75% of them earn less than \$20,000 annually. Truthfully, some simply struggle to provide many basic needs for their children. To that end, she designed a program to meet the health and development needs of infants and toddlers. Thus, the "Baby Essentials" program was birthed. The main goal was to provide diapers and formula for all of the children enrolled at the early childhood education center for families who could not afford a consistent supply. Denise met with interim director of development, Christine Krueger, and shared her desire and need for funding. Christine went in search of those sources. She applied wherever she felt the need of the program matched the granters requirements. Fortunately, she filled out an application for a NIN direct service grant and was awarded \$3,000 in 2019. In 2020, it was reported back to us that 100% of babies ages six weeks to 12 months received milk they needed while attending the Center. 50% of those babies also received one canister of formula per month for home consumption. Lastly, 100% of babies/toddlers ages six weeks to three years had diapers needed for Center and home use. According to Christine, "Thanks to the Neighbors in Need grant, our babies are dry and their tummies are full, and parents, who are

OUR MISSIONS

November Noisy Offering: Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Mission & Vision

It's not always easy to tell at the beginning of a relationship if it will become abusive. Abuse can be verbal, physical, emotional, sexual, or financial. Domestic and intimate partner abuse does not discriminate against age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or economic status.

If you have any questions or need our services, please call our 24/7 Helpline at 610-437-3369. If you have general questions about our agency, its mission and work, please call our administrative offices at 610-797-0530.

How You Can Get Help

Domestic and intimate partner abuse is a pattern of abusive and coercive behaviors including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.

Domestic and intimate partner abuse can take many forms, including physical abuse, psychological, emotional, verbal and financial abuse, sexual violence and isolation.

Turning Point staff and volunteers are trained to help victims of all types of domestic and intimate partner abuse.

Does your partner:

Embarrass you with bad names and put downs?

Look at you or act in ways that scare you?

Control what you do, who you see or talk to, or where you go?

Stop you from seeing or talking to friends or family?

Take your money or Social Security, make you ask for money, or refuse to give you money?

Make all the decisions?

Tell you you're a bad parent, or threaten to take away or hurt your children?

Act like the abuse is no big deal, it's your fault, or even deny doing it?

Destroy your property or threaten to kill your pets?

Intimidate you with guns, knives or other weapons?

Shove you, slap you or hit you?

Force you to drop charges?

Threaten to commit suicide?

Threaten to kill you?

If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions, you may be in an abusive relationship.

Worship Information

November 1st—All Saints Day

NT: Revelation 7: 9—17

NT: I John 3: 1—3

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1—12

The first vase is presented by the Family Trust Fund in memory of Emma Mack.

The second vase is presented by Pastor Martin to Ellen for their wedding anniversary tomorrow.

The bulletins are sponsored by Max and Eli Nuscher in celebration of their parent's wedding anniversary tomorrow.

November 8th

OT: Joshua 24: 1 — 3a, 14 — 25

NT: I Thessalonians 4: 13 — 18

Gospel: Matthew 25: 1 — 13

Both vases are presented by Tara, Terrence, Brennan and James Field in celebration of Lilly Field's 8th birthday on November 2nd..

The bulletins are presented by Janice Angstadt in celebration of her mother Shirley Gehris' 93rd birthday on November 3rd.

November 15th

OT: Judges 4: 1 — 7

NT: I Thessalonians 5: 1 — 11

Gospel: Matthew 25: 14 — 30

The first vase is presented by Donald Brensinger and children in memory of wife and mother Dorothy Brensinger.

November 22nd — Christ the King Sunday

OT: Ezekiel 34: 11 — 16, 20 — 24

NT: Ephesians 1: 15 — 23

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31 — 46

The first vase is presented by Pat James in celebration of Carl's birthday.

The second vase is presented by Dean Beers in honor of his mother Robin Beers' birthday on November 18th.

The bulletins are presented by Betty Dunbar in memory of her sister Mary J Lauer's birthday on November 23rd.

November 29th — The 1st Sunday of Advent

OT: Isaiah 64: 1 — 9

NT: I Corinthians 1: 3 — 9

Gospel: Mark 13: 24 — 37

No flowers have been presented this day.

The bulletins are sponsored by the Nuscher Family for all that we are thankful for!

December 6th — The 2nd Sunday of Advent

OT: Isaiah 40: 1 — 11

NT: II Peter 3: 8 — 15a

Gospel: Mark 1: 1 — 8

No flowers have been presented this day.

The bulletins are sponsored by Janice Angstadt

The Consistory for November is Leon and Stephanie Prutzman.

The Consistory for December is Leon and Stephanie Prutzman.

Flower and bulletin sponsorships are available on the following dates. Please let the church office know which dates you are interested in, and in whose honor or memory you are sponsoring. Bulletins can be sponsored at \$8 for each Sunday, and flower vases are \$15 per vase and there are 2 available each Sunday unless otherwise noted. Send an email to office@indianland.org or call the office at [610-767-5751](tel:610-767-5751)

Flowers are available:

Nov 29th

Dec 6th, 13th (one vase), and 27th

Bulletins are available:

Dec 27th

Flowers and Bulletin sponsorships are also for 2021. Please contact the church office if you wish to sponsor either in the new year. Sign-up sheets will not be posted in the Narthex.

Worship services will continue to be **in-person, with masks and social distancing, on-line via Facebook and through the telephone**. We realize the phone has had some interference from our sound system and we have corrected that issue. Please feel free to leave a message on the church phone if there is a problem with your ability to hear the service. We can not fix what we do not know. We also have a transmitter that you may tune in to in the parking lot or within a quarter mile radius of the church. **This month we will also hold a Contemporary Praise service in-person only on Sunday, November 8th at 7:30am and masks will be required for this service as well.** If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor Martin via phone, email, or outside the church after the service. Pastor Martin leaves at the end of the service to greet everyone as they are leaving the Sanctuary. We are also changing the seating configuration in the Sanctuary to be every other pew instead of every three. Have a blessed day and stay close to God as we continue the journey, no matter where we are worshipping, we are worshipping the same God!

COMMUNION

As you know, we have not held regularly scheduled Communion services since the pandemic began. We celebrated the Sacrament on Sunday, October 4th—World Communion Sunday! **We will celebrate again on Wednesday, November 25th at our Thanksgiving Eve service beginning at 7:00PM.** This service will also be streamed and available through the telephone. As a reminder, our by-law requirement for active membership within St. Paul's, one must commune four times per year, the Consistory has determined that whatever your membership status was at the end of 2019, that is what your status will remain at the end of 2020 and until further notice. We are unsure if we will have any more Communion services the rest of this year or when again in 2021. If you are homebound and would like Pastor Martin to visit, please let him know as he is willing to visit those who feel comfortable with a visit and he will bring Communion with him. For those who are watching at home or listening on the phone, just get a cracker, piece of bread and then some water, wine, juice or a grape and you may also participate in the Communion for the Holy Spirit is not limited to the church Sanctuary.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SURVEY

We would like to engage all the children in our Sunday school program in some manner. Since we have not been able to meet in person since March, Beth has found that she misses the questions our children ask and the joy of getting to know each one of them better. We would like to know what is on your mind and how we can have conversations with each other without meeting at church. Therefore, we believe that most of you have laptops, ipads, smart phone, etc. so we are looking for some information and then we will develop a new program for our Christian Spiritual formation. What is your address for the following?

FACEBOOK

EMAIL

Do you or your family look at St. Paul's UCC Website OR the St. Paul's Facebook Page on a regular basis?

___Yes ___No Both _____ Website _____ Facebook _____

Since we are not able to meet in person, we are exploring different ways for the children to hear/read the Sunday school lesson/crafts. There are possibly two options we are considering.

1. Sending the lessons/crafts to your family one month at a time.
2. Have teacher led lessons taped on our Facebook page.

Please indicate which option would help your family/children be a part of St. Paul's Church Family while we are not gathering in Christian Education. 1____ 2____

If you have any other suggestions, please indicate them below and either mail them to the church or give them to Beth Sikorsky when you come to church. This survey will also be placed on our website as well. Thank you for your time and we value your input greatly!

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

St. Paul's UCC of Indianland

PO Box 969

Cherryville, PA 18035

!Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 632

Lehigh Valley PA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please note that the next Courier for publication will be the **December newsletter**. Please plan your submissions accordingly and submit no later than **November 15th**. If there are any questions or concerns please call the office at **610-767-5751** or email them to **office@indianland.org**.
Thank you very much.

Traditional Worship Service — Sundays at 10:30 am— in person, on-line or via your telephone

Christian Education Hour — remains on hold as of now, weekly lessons of Face Book

Praise Contemporary Worship — One in-person service only on the 2nd Sunday of the month for now.

Please send any prayer requests to office@indianland.org or call and leave them on our answering machine at 610—767—5751. We love to **PUSH**—that is **Pray Until Something Happens**. Please get the individual's permission to be on the prayer chain and to have their name spoken in church and on-line.