

Welcome! Whether you are worshipping with us in-person or virtually, we pray that you and your family are safe and healthy.



Serving Today

Scripture Reader: Erin Pingitore
Greeter: Linda Okuniewski
Acolyte: Bennett Boyer
Tech: Diana Dadey

Last Sunday

Attendance: 126
Virtual worship viewings: 67 (as of 10/12)
Giving: \$4367

BIRTHDAYS ~ this week

October 15: Ty Czeiner
October 16: Betsy Groller, Emily Dunning
October 19: Marlin Spotts
October 21: Spike Thompson, Susan Lincoln

ANNIVERSARIES ~ this week

October 18: Chris & Heidi Davidheiser, Dave & Tiffany Dunning
October 21: Pat & Jen Leady

Next Sunday: *Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*
Message: **Moses Sees the Glory of God**
Texts: *Psalms 99, Exodus 33:12-23*, Matthew 22:15-22*
**next Sunday's sermon text*



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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Amityville, Pennsylvania

October 15, 2023

Ministers: The People of St. Paul's UCC
The Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson, Pastor
Martha Sitler, Minister of Music
Joe Ceklosky: Leader of Technology/Video Team
Marlene Dadey, Director of Christian Education/Office Manager
Emily Zimmerman, Director of Youth Ministry
Mike Rackey, Sexton
Church Office 610-689-9364
Pastor Steven's cell - 610-858-0921
Pastor's e-mail - pastor@stpaulsuccamity.org
Church e-mail - office@stpaulsuccamity.org
Website: www.stpaulsuccamity.org

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Mission Statement

In its life and mission, St. Paul's UCC seeks to worship the triune God; proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; practice loving service toward the needy; embody God's reign of peace and justice; establish a Christian community of faith; and be a faithful member of the church universal.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Amityville, Pennsylvania

October 15, 2023

9:45 A.M.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

* = Those who are able may stand

Prelude *High in the Heavens, Eternal God* -Ritter
Where'er You Walk -G. F. Handel

Choral Prompt *Great Are You, O Lord*

* Processional Hymn *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Hymnal #1

* Greeting The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us share signs of Christ's peace with one another.

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Introit *You Are My God* Hymnal #40

* The Solemn Declaration (Exodus 20:3-4) sung response: **Amen!**

* Call to Worship —based on Psalm 106:1, 19-23

Worship the LORD and give thanks.
The LORD is good;
his steadfast loves endures forever!
At Horeb our spiritual ancestors made a calf;
they worshiped an idol cast from metal.
They exchanged their glorious God
for an image of a bull.
They forgot the God who saved them,
bringing them out of Egypt.
They brought destruction from heaven
upon themselves.

* Call to Confession —based on Psalm 106: 6, 20-21

* Prayer of Confession (in unison)

—based on Exodus 32:1, 20:2

Holy God, you are the Lord our God, who brought us out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. And yet our trust in you is fragile, easily crushed by our bent toward indifference—the dismissal of your faithfulness as a result of our forgetfulness. Our trust is fragile, easily broken by the slightest pause—an answer to prayer not instantly given, a request for peace not immediately felt. Our trust is fragile, easily displaced by gods of our own making—the god of self-sufficiency, chased at any cost, the god of illusion, pursued in any form. Lord, have mercy on us, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon —based on Psalm 106:23

Beloved, hear the good news: Jesus Christ came to stand in the breach to reconcile us to God. We are forgiven and freed! **Thanks be to God!**

* Affirmation *The Apostle's Creed* (inside hymnal cover)

Prayer of the Day —based on Exodus 32:1-4

Choir Anthem *Prayer for Our Time* -Hopson

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Readings *Matthew 22:1-14, Exodus 32:1-14*

Sermon *The Perplexing Story of the Golden Calf*

* Responsive Hymn *If My People's Hearts Are Humbled* Hymnal #805

Prayers of the People response: *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Invitation to the Offering —based on Philippians 4:6-7

* Doxology Hymnal #815

* Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication —based on Matthew 18:33, Romans 14:7-9

* Recessional Hymn *We Praise Thee, O God* Hymnal #68

* Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude *Echo Alleluia* -Purcell

SERMON TEXT

Exodus 32:1-14

32 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

² Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” ³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” ⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’

⁹ “I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” ¹⁴ Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

ST. PAUL’S ACTIVITIES—this week

Sunday 10/15	Adult Sunday School	8:30 AM
	Worship & Sunday School	9:45 AM
	Confirmation	10:45 AM
	Girl Scouts 11165	4:00 PM
	Cub Scouts	6:00 PM
	Girl Scouts 1709	6:00 PM
Monday 10/16	Boy Scouts	6:45 PM
	Tech Committee	7:30 PM
Tuesday 10/17	Eastern Star	9:00 AM
	Steph Grace Bootcamp	6:15 PM
	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
	Women’s Bible Study	7:00 PM
Wednesday 10/18	Cub Scouts	6:00 PM
	Youth Group 9-12	7:00 PM
	Choir	7:00 PM
Thursday 10/19	Facilities Committee	7:00 PM
Friday 10/20	Amity Chess Club	7:00 PM
	Event Set-Up	
Saturday 10/21	Family Event	11:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have something for **EVERYONE!** Adult Classes (rooms 10, 11, 13) meet from 8:30 to 9:30. Childcare service is available for all ages during this hour in the Nursery and Room 2 of the older SS building. Preschool (ages 3 by 9/1/23) through sixth grade meet in Rooms 8 and 9 during the worship hour. Nursery service is available for those under 3. During worship children ages 3 through grade 6 meet in Rooms 8 and 9. Children under the age of 3 may go to the Nursery downstairs.

GULDIN TRUST HIGHER EDUCATION

Scholarship applications are available in the church office or on the website www.stpaulsuccamity.org. If you are an active member of St. Paul’s who is currently attending college or pursuing another form of education you are eligible to apply for a scholarship through the Guldin Trust. Applications are accepted through November 19.



Scholarship Fund

GOSPEL TEXT

Matthew 22:1-14

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

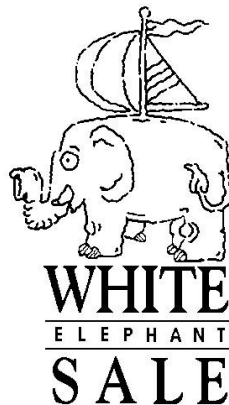
¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Donations will be accepted October 30, October 31, and November 1 in the Social Room (downstairs) from 8 to Noon. NO electronics, computers, printers, etc. Canning creations are a big hit, so bring those home-made pickles chow chows, jams and jellies. The White Elephant Sale will be Friday, November 3 from 8 to 4 and Saturday, November 4 beginning at 8 AM. There will be a Purse Sale as well!



CHRISTMAS WISH TREE

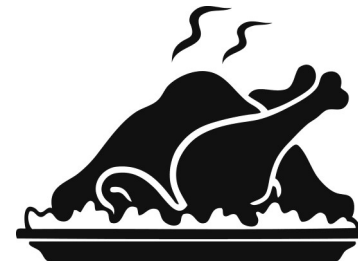
It's that time of the year again to launch the Christmas Wish Tree program. This year we will be collecting monetary donations that will be used to acquire gift cards for the families in need in the Daniel Boone School District. The gift cards will be given to the families to provide financial assistance for the purchase of Christmas gifts for the children in the family. This year we plan on helping 60 students in grades K-4. Donations can be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or mailed to the church. Please note "Christmas Wish Tree" in the memo line of the check or on an envelope of donating cash. Thank You for once again supporting the Christmas Wish Tree program. For any concerns, please contact Sara Trejo at [484.644.5417](tel:484.644.5417). Contributions must be received by November 19.



THANKSGIVING GIFT CARDS

The Missions Committee is providing grocery store gift cards for needy families in the Daniel Boone School District. The gift card allows the families to purchase the things they need for their celebration. Won't you help our church support folks in our area. Place your donation in an envelope and mark it "Thanksgiving." There are envelopes available where the greeters are. Donations will be accepted through November 5. Your gift will be a blessing.

TURKEY SUPPER



Mark your calendars for **November 4!** More importantly, mark your calendar to set aside time to help with the preparations during the week leading up to the supper. A schedule will be printed in the October 29 bulletin. You can contact Harriet Boyer, Anne McLain, Marianne Reinert or Doug Reinert for more information.