

# The Visitor

January 2012

St. Paul United Church of Christ



## Happy New Year!



St. Paul UCC will celebrate The Festival of Epiphany on Sunday, January 8, during the morning worship at 9:30 AM. Epiphany is often lost in the post-holiday preoccupation with restoring order to our homes, paying bills, and getting back to work. In the midst of “getting things back to normal,” celebrating this festival enriches the good news of Christ that we anticipated in Advent and celebrated at Christmas.

The meaning of “epiphany” is “a new understanding.” The biblical stories associated

with Epiphany and the season that follows share a common “aha” quality. When the Magi approached the child Jesus, new understandings came to them about how Christ would be a messiah for the entire world.

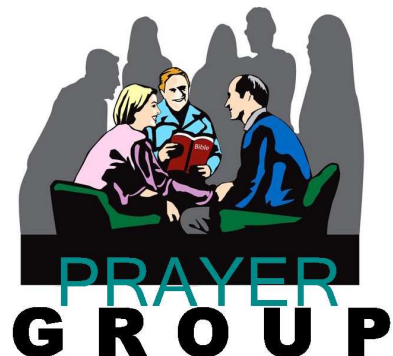
A portion of this service will be set aside for a time of reconciliation, a gift that Christ gives to us each day, especially as we enter the new year. Persons are encouraged to come open to receive the new understanding of life in community that Christ brings as we lay aside our troubles of the past, and begin walking together into St. Paul’s future as a community of faith.



On January 8th a new Prayer Group will begin at St. Paul UCC. Our mission is to gather as a small community to sit in silence and listen to the Holy Spirit of the Living God, and bring intentional prayer to our church, our community, and the world.

This group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. in the Meditation Room (former pastor’s office) in the Education Wing. Everyone is welcome to participate; there will be a group covenant that guides the members of the group.

If you have questions, please contact Jason Maravelias at 847-217-6236.



# *A Note from Pastor Jana*



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to share a poem with you that I find particularly inspiring as the New Year begins. In it I hope you will find something that stirs your spirit!

## A New Year's Plea

by Edgar Guest

Lord, let me stand in the thick of the fight,  
Let me bear what I must without whining;  
Grant me the wisdom to do what is right,  
Though a thousand false beacons are shining.

Let me be true as the steel of a blade,  
Make me bigger than skillful or clever;  
Teach me to cling to my best, unafraid,  
And harken to false gospels, never.

Let me be brave when the burden is great,  
Faithful when wounded by sorrow;  
Teach me, when troubled, with patience to wait  
The better and brighter to-morrow.

Spare me from hatred and envy and shame,  
Open my eyes to life's beauty;  
Let not the glitter of fortune or fame  
Blind me to what is my duty.

Let me be true to myself to the end,  
Let me stand to my task without whining;  
Let me be right as a man, [woman] as a friend,  
Though a thousand false beacons are shining.

May your coming year be blessed!

Happy New Year –

*Pastor Jana*

**Believe.**  
**HOPE.**  
*Encourage.*  
**P E R S E V E R E .**

# Missions



Thank You!

Thank you for your generous gifts of hats, scarves, mittens and gloves that adorned the Mitten Tree in Memorial Hall this year. Your gifts helped to make Christmas a little brighter and a little warmer for children and their families from Sunnyhill School with clothing, toys and food..

A big thank you goes to the Missions Team and Nancy Hamelberg, Lisa Blakeslee and Suzanne Hempenius for their tireless efforts in preparing and sorting the toys, and helping to get all the gifts loaded and on their way!

Please join the Missions Team for a Missions Breakfast after worship on Sunday, January 15. The Team will be raising donations to support the many ministries they serve throughout the year.



**Breakfast**

## United Church of Christ—101

Did you know that the roots of our denomination reach all the way back to the beginnings of our country?

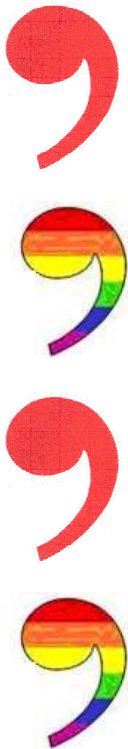
The United Church of Christ was formed in 1957 when two Protestant denominations made the decision to merge and become one, creating a church that was *united and uniting* in its mission. Those two denominations which merged brought rich heritage to the newly formed UCC.

The first, the Congregational Christian Church, had its roots in the Congregational church, dating to the pilgrims, and the Christian church, which began forming in America in the late 1700's. These churches joined to make the Congregational Christian Church in 1931, emphasizing freedom of religious expression and local church autonomy.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church, had its beginnings in the Reformed Church of the United States which traces its roots to the congregations of German settlers forming from 1725 in the Pennsylvania area. The Evangelical Synod of America traces its beginning to the 1840 union of the German Evangelical pastors of Missouri. This denomination, which formed in 1934, also had a strong commitment to freedom of religious expression, as well as a strong heritage for liturgical tradition from the European Reformation.

All of this combined gives the UCC its strong foundation of seeking what unites Christians rather than divides them.

St. Paul UCC's heritage is founded in the Evangelical and Reformed tradition.

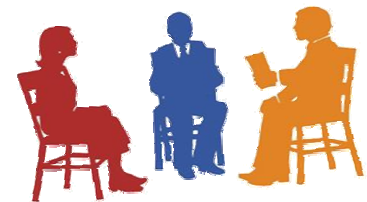


On January 8<sup>th</sup> St. Paul Kids will kick off a 5 week module titled “Snow Day” from Group Publishing. The module focuses on Jesus’ life. Each week we will sing using the videos provided, watch a video drama or skit, meet in small groups for discussion, play games, do art activities, and even make snow. The weekly titles are as follows: The Birth of Jesus; Simeon and Anna Prophecy About Jesus; Jesus Speaks With the Teachers; Jesus is Baptized; and Jesus Begins His Ministry. The Bible Points are as follows: We praise God for Jesus; We trust God to keep his promises; We please God with our obedience; We learn about Jesus; and We ask Jesus to change us.



Thanks to our incredible volunteers who made Camp Christmas such a great success this year: Jennifer Rose (program coordinator) Sue Schick, Maggie Minton, Charlotte Drayer, Nancy Hamelberg, Shelley Carlson, Margo Dunmore, Lisa Blakeslee, Ann Behling, Alisha Kottke, Lauri Ducharme, Claire Minton, Jillian Minton and Steve Chwalisz. The kids had a wonderful time as always!!

REEL People will meet Friday, January 20 at the home of Pete and Lauri Ducharme. Please see the movie “The Legend of 1900” in advance and come ready to share at 7:00 p.m. If you’d like, bring a snack for all to enjoy!



There’s something for you...

Women’s Fellowship will take a break during January and February when the weather and roads are the most dangerous.



Women’s Breakfast Bunch will not meet in January, but will resume on Saturday, February 11th, 9 AM, in Memorial Hall.

MANNA orders are due January 8. Order forms can be found in the Narthex or by calling the church office at 847-381-0460.



# Prayer List

We are grateful for health and joy restored through God's abundant grace and powerful love. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers this month as they go through challenging times.

## CELEBRATIONS & JOYS

**Birthdays** Spending time with Family & Friends Camp Christmas Success  
35 years of wedding bliss for Sue (Wendt) & Jess Robertson Anniversaries  
Vorel's children visiting Violet's 2nd birthday  
Music Ministry at St. Paul

## PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING

Pat Gehrke  
Joan Greenwood  
Bud Goodmonson  
Jean Ward  
Don Rubino  
Virgil Hanson  
Barb Whistle, Sally Price's sister  
Paul, Donna Wilson's husband  
Dana McCloud, Shelley Carlson's daughter  
Elaine, Cathy Pezdirtz's foster daughter  
Mike Chwalisz, Steve Chwalisz's brother  
Donna Salmon, Mary Krabbe's sister  
Corie Daalstrom, friend of Erin Roessler  
Lori Gustafson, Lynn Minton's mother  
Gene Randle, Judy Randle's husband  
Mildred Gregory, Marty's step mom  
Aarion Avner, Duane Tompkin's relative  
Dottie Pieskor, friend of Gregory's  
Elizabeth's husband, Lauri Ducharme's friend  
Donna, Shelley Carlson's daughter's best friend  
Duane Tompkins, Sr., Duane Tompkins' father  
Donald O'Neil, Jason Maravelias' grandfather  
Catherine & John Ullrich, friends of Larry Breidenbach & Tim Michelson

Alice Rieke  
Auli Hartikainen  
Jeannine Moore  
Ruth Gregory  
Barb McNamee, Pastor Jana's mother  
Sophie Kunze, Lisa Blakeslee's mother  
Patricia, Diane Moeller's daughter  
Bob, Lori Gustafson's brother  
George Evans, Mike Vorel's friend  
Kate, Schick's granddaughter  
Rachel, Cathy Pezdirtz's friend  
Kyle, Shelley Carlson's daughter  
Joann, Sue Schick's friend  
Jill Naples, Karen's mom  
Anyone who has lost a pet  
Edgar, friend of Bachmann's  
Carol Mauro, cousin of Ruth Vorel  
Johnny, friend of Mike Minton  
Carmen, Robb Fanning's friend  
Evelyn, Jason Maravelias' aunt  
The Grogan Family, Pam Ransom

## PRAYERS OF CONDOLENCES

The Family of Terry Marczak, Lisa Blakeslee's aunt  
The Family of Michelle, Kirby Drayer's friend  
The Family of Virginia O'Neill, Jason Maravelias' grandmother  
The Family of Jodi, friend of Cathy Pezdirtz

## PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Those who are homeless, hungry  
Children in poverty

*\*Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our Troops serving our country, and especially Staff Sgt. Joseph Konieczny; Christopher Millonzi; Marcus Kuiper; Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark Hempenius, Capt. Keith Katzenberger, Steven Floyd, Shawn Killinan, Andrew Miller, Gunnery Sergeant Adam Bendrud, LCP Michael Hempenius; Lt. Col. Geoff Crawford, Derek Johnson.*

*\*Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those who are not able to attend church: Bill Altenburg, Lillian Ankele, Betty Bielke, Gladys Frick, Gladys Johnson, Ruth Lindburg, Wally Moeller, Henrietta Sturm, and Lillian Stangl.*

# St. Paul Ministry Support



## USHERS

January 1: Marion Miller  
Sue Schick  
Dee McCarthy  
Sue Robertson  
January 8: Mary Krabbe  
David Holtermann  
Ralph Gaulke  
Jason Maravelias  
January 15: Heather Hernandez  
David Holtermann  
Walt Hempenius  
Rose Chen  
January 22: Ron Hamelberg  
Bill Bishop  
Paul Thompson  
Kirk Murdock  
January 29: OPEN

## GREETERS

January 1: Marty Gregory  
January 8: Jeff & Randee Enzbigilis  
January 15: Ruth Hanson  
January 22: Kathleen Bolger  
January 29: Marion Miller

## LITURGISTS

January 8: Fred Schick  
January 15: Bill Bishop

Help is always needed for Sunday Servers. Please call:  
Marty Gregory for ushering, 847-381-4382  
Ruth Gregory for greeting, 847-381-4382  
Sally & Dick Price for coffee hosting, 847-359-1358  
Jason Maravelias for liturgists, 847-217-6236

## *FINANCE*

### Contributions November 20— December 11

November 20	\$ 2,094
November 27	\$ 2,993
December 4	\$ 6,036
December 11	\$4,866
December 18	\$3,384



Removing of the Greens

The Christmas decorations throughout the church will be taken down for storage on Saturday, January 14 at 9 AM. Please lend a hand and join in the fellowship of the morning.



# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	If you need assistance from church office, please call before you come; office will be open varied hours in January.		<i>Choirs Meet EVERY WEDNESDAY 6 PM Bells 7 PM Chancel Choir</i>			
1 9:30-10AM Worship	2 Office Closed	3 Office Hours: 9-noon  7:30 PM AA	4 Office Hours: 9-noon  8 PM Praise Team	5 8:30 AM Weight Watchers	6 Office Closed	7 7:30 AM Weight Watchers
8 9:30AM Worship/ Reconciliation Service 11AM Missions Mtg MANNA orders due	9 Office Hours: 9-noon	10 Office Hours: 9-noon  7:30 PM AA	11 Office Hours: 9-noon  4 PM Staff Mtg 8 PM Praise Team	12 Office Hours: 9-noon 8:30 AM Weight Watchers	13 Office Closed  <i>Articles due for next issue of The Visitor</i>	14 7:30 AM Weight Watchers 9 AM De- Greening of Church 1 PM Branches of the Vine
15 9:30AM Worship/Praise Sunday/ 10:30AM Missions Brunch 11 AM CE Mtg	16 Office Hours: 9-noon	17 Office Hours: 9-noon  7:30 AA	18 Office Hours: 9-noon	19 8:30 AM Weight Watchers Office Hours: 9-noon	20 Office Closed  7 PM REEL People	21 7:30 AM Weight Watchers
22 9:30AM Worship	23 Office Hours: 9-noon  7 PM Disciple 4	24 Office Hours: 9-noon  7 PM Council	25 Office Hours: 9-noon	26 8:30 AM Weight Watchers Office Hours: 9-noon	27 Office Closed	28 7:30 AM Weight Watchers
29 9:30AM Worship	30 Office Hours: 9-noon	31 Office Hours: 9-noon				

*Our Mission: Welcoming all people and transforming all of our lives through Christ's gospel.*

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St. Paul United Church of Christ  
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## St. Paul UCC Visitor

Contact us anytime at:

St. Paul United Church of Christ

Tel/847-381-0460

Fax/847-381-0463

[www.stpauluccbarrington.org](http://www.stpauluccbarrington.org)

Rev. Jana Chwalisz—Pastor

[jchwalisz@aol.com](mailto:jchwalisz@aol.com)

Martin Gregory—Church Sexton

Renee Kruper—Music Director

Deb Weaver—Office Manager

Tiffany France—Youth Director

Dawn Hamelberg—Kiddee Keep

Church email

[stpauluccchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:stpauluccchurch@yahoo.com)

Every Sunday

Worship/Church School

9:30 AM



# Epiphany