

# St. Paul's United Church of Christ

47 South Whiteoak Street  
Kutztown, PA 19530  
610-683-3393

Sunday School all ages 9am  
Sunday Worship 10:15 am

[office@stpaulskutztown.org](mailto:office@stpaulskutztown.org)

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

February 2025  
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## THE PULSE OF ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Kutztown, PA

### Our Mission

We, the family of St. Paul's UCC, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, are committed to carry His Good News. We celebrate God's presence by sharing God's unconditional love with fellowship, worship and service to others. We pray God's wisdom and compassion to lead us in our endeavors.

### Church Staff

Rev. Debra Timmins... Interim Pastor  
Barbara Merkel..... Admin Assistant  
Judy Heffler ..... Organist  
Donna Sheaffer ... Bell Choir Director  
Jan Lenich ..... Sexton

### Church Officers

Kathy Landis... Consistory President  
Steve Leinbach..... Consistory V.P.  
Daryn Keim..... Consistory Secretary  
Cheryl Zeigler... ..... Treasurer  
Margorie Weida: Financial Secretary

### Important Dates

Souper Bowl of Caring  
February 9  
Newsletter Deadline  
February 15  
Lent Begins  
March 5

### From the Pastor's Desk

## How do we say, "God Loves You?"

I like to think of February as the month of love – not that all other months aren't full of love - but that we give our hearts and minds permission to *really* dwell on love this month. The ancient Greeks had several words for love while our English language lumps together all kinds of love and doesn't really tell us if it's directional. (As in I just "Love" that shirt you're wearing – I'm pretty sure the shirt is not loving anyone back!)

Coming from Pennsylvania, most of us are familiar with the *Phili*os kind of love – that's what we usually call brotherly love, as in Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love. When we intentionally include everyone in this kind of love, it is the love we have for all the fellow humans with whom we share the planet.

The florists and confectioners are very interested in promoting the *Eros* kind of love this month as they encourage us to purchase flowers and candy for the one we are sweet on. If you have a soft spot for love stories, this is the month for you – and Hallmark channel is happy to share plenty of those stories.

In Christianity, we like to talk more about *Agape* love. This is the love that the Apostle Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 13, "Love is patient. Love is kind...Love Never Ends." God's love for humanity never ends. We receive it daily. We also share it daily – when we are at our best. We say God loves you in many ways, the most important of those ways is action and attitude rather than just words. May your hearts and spirits be warmed by God's love this month and always. -pastordebttimmins@stpaulskutztown.org

### Consistory Meeting Highlights

Thank you to Ethel DeMatteo-Beck, Denise Keim, John Keiser, Sandi Madeira, and Nancy O'Neil for completing their terms on consistory.

The new consistory welcomes Deacons Jerry and LeAnn Silberman who will serve through 2028.

Consistory members present re-affirmed officers; Kathy Landis (President), Steve Leinbach (Vice President) and Daryn Keim (Consistory Secretary) to serve in and with the congregation in 2025.

VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.STPAULSKUTZTOWN.ORG](http://WWW.STPAULSKUTZTOWN.ORG)

# Christian Education

## Youth Sunday School

The Youth Sunday School Class has been busy exploring the Bible using the Group Publishing "Simply Loved" curriculum and incorporating music, crafts and games. They have also been meeting with Pastor Deb once a month. They, along with the Congregation, will be folding Pocket Flags for deploying soldiers in February and will also soon be deciding upon a Spring Mission Project to help spread God's word and service to others. Thanks to all of our Youth Sunday School teachers and helpers this year - Denise Keim, Ethel Beck, Ashley Stofflet, Marjorie Weida, Louise Moyer, Jerry Silberman, and Danette Seidel.

## Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday school is a combination of Bible study, book club, discipleship class, and group therapy – as needed. The group listens for God's direction as they encourage, support, help, and pray for each other. This group is open to all adults and youth, following confirmation. They attempt to get started before 9AM, but often get talking about issues of the day. The group is currently viewing the newest season of "The Chosen" in fellowship hall.

## Bible Study

Bible study meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at 7PM in the Sharadin Lounge. This group is open to those just now finding the courage to open a Bible, those who have studied for years and everyone in-between. If you have ever wanted to dive deeper into your Bible, please join us.



## ***St. Paul's Pocket Flag Project: Honoring Our Deployed Military***

Sunday, February 23 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

We invite you to join the Sunday School classes on Sunday, February 23 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's UCC Kutztown in Fellowship Hall to fold little American flags to be given to deploying military personnel from Fort Drum's 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. All members of the congregation, all Sunday School classes (youth and adult), and all parents and families, and extended family members are invited. Please come and help us. The flags will then be blessed during the worship service.

The Pocket Flag Project was conceived in October 2001, after visiting with fellow Boy Scout leaders who are veterans who served in Vietnam and the Gulf War. Both of them carried small, folded flags in their left shirt pockets. These men related how important those flags were and still are to them. The Pocket Flag Project has since grown into an international project and flags through the Pocket Flag Project have been distributed to over 2 million deploying military personnel. St. Paul's has folded thousands of pocket flags over the past 12 years!

*Hope to see you on February 23 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.*

*If you have any questions, please contact Louise Moyer at  
LouiseMoyer13@gmail.com*



### What do these Bible verses have in common?

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. **Matthew 25:35**

In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." **Luke 3:11**

Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. **Romans 12:13**

Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who are kind to the needy honor him **Proverbs 14:31**

**God throughout scripture encourages us to feed the hungry, help those in need, provide hospitality.**

When there is someone in need in our community, we refer them to Friend, Inc. Community Services. In years past, our congregation also provided shelf stable food to Friend, Inc. Now, it is preferable for us to give monetary donations to "Friend" so that they can purchase just what is needed in the community, and often at much deeper discounts than we could get.

The community needs our offerings. We will have a special

**"Souper Bowl of Caring" offering on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.**

All proceeds from our Souper Bowl of Caring offering will go to Friend, Inc. We are using resources provided by the "Souper Bowl of Caring" organization (also known as tacklehunger.org) free of charge.

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

**"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat."**

Since then, close to \$200 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

I encourage you to go to [tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org) to see background and resources from this grassroots organization. I also encourage you to give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)

Souper Bowl of Caring  
February 9<sup>th</sup>



[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org)



Hungry?

If you or your family needs food assistance. Find a local food pantry using this code:



Or by going to [map.tacklehunger.org](http://map.tacklehunger.org)

Volunteer your time at a nearby pantry to support one of more than 25,000 food pantries across the country.



# FEBRUARY

*birthdays*

Evelyn Kistler	February 1
Debbie Schaeffer	February 3
Kate Swan	February 3
Ronald Reinhard	February 5
Abigail Hilbert	February 7
Kay Schwalm	February 7
Gerald Silberman	February 8
Ronald Angstadt	February 9
Michael Merkel	February 10
Philip Schmoyer	February 12
Ronald Metzger	February 14
Brandon Reidenhour	February 14
Judy Daub	February 17
Denise Keim	February 17
Cynthia Schaeffer	February 17
Leslie Stump	February 17
Erma Gruber	February 20
Greg Stricker	February 21
Benjamin Herman	February 22
Louise Moyer	February 22
Wayne Lobb	February 23
Reed Garner	February 26
Jean Follweiler	February 27
Brian Balthaser	February 28



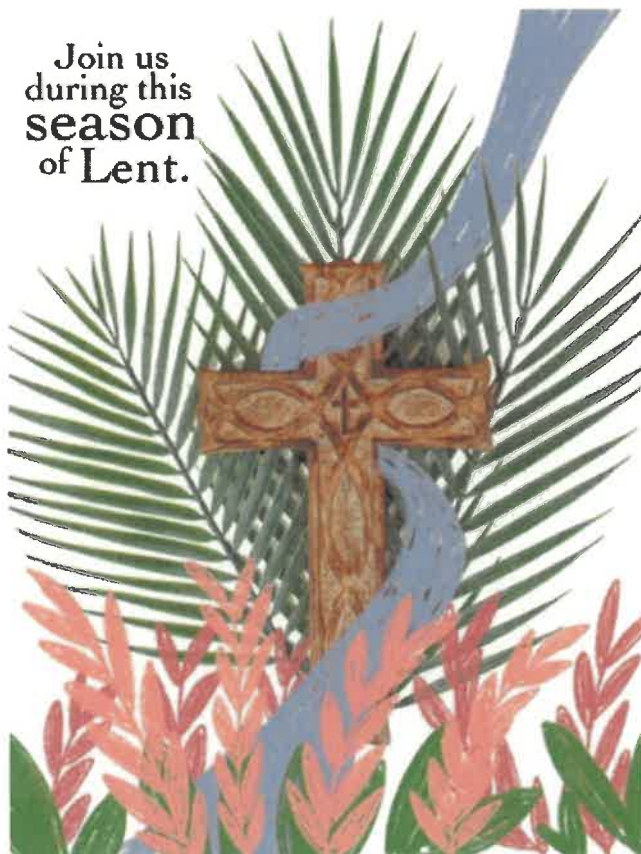
Sadly, there are people who take advantage of church members and friends because they think we are kinder than we are wise.

Please remember, I will never ask you to send money or gift cards or request that you send me money via PayPal, CashApp, Venmo or any other instrument.

Never send gift cards, cash, electronic funds to me or on my behalf.

And as if we didn't already have enough to worry about, there are new scams that start with what looks like an innocent text message. If you text me, please make sure you identify who you are so that I read and respond as quickly as I am able. My family and I have all deleted suspicious looking texts recently. - Pastor Deb

Join us  
during this  
season  
of Lent.



## Lent begins March 5

Look for information next month about

- Ash Wednesday Worship, March 5<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday Morning Lenten Study
- Wednesday Evening Lenten Soup Suppers
- Wednesday Evening Prayers and Program

# FEBRUARY 2025



Worship—10:15 AM  
 Sunday School—9:00 AM Adult SS 8:45 AM  
 Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8 AM—Noon; Pastor Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 9 AM— Noon  
 (Due to church schedule, appointments suggested for Pastor)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:30 AM Manna at Grace 9AM-12:30 PM Button Club (Lounge) 9:30 AM Yoga (Upstairs) 9AM-10PM Crafting
2 Pastor Sunday 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	3 6 PM Yoga	4 7 PM Bible Study	5 Carpet Installation	6 Carpet Installation 6-9 PM Lions Club	7	8 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga
9 Souper Bowl of Caring Donation	10 6 PM Yoga	11 7 PM Consistory 7 PM Finance 11 AM Worship Mtg.	12 7 PM Consistory	13 6:15 PM Bells TBD	14 7:30 PM KFM Society Summer on Duke	15 9:30 AM Yoga
16	17 6 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Fellowship 7 PM Missions	18 7 PM Bible Study	19 10AM-12Noon Young At Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilters	20 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge) 6:15 PM Bells TBD	21	22 9AM-10PM Crafting 9:30 AM Yoga
23 Pocket Flag Folding	24 6 PM Yoga 7 PM Property	25 7 PM Christian Ed Meeting	26	27 6:15 PM Bells TDB	28	