

# January The PULSE



A simple search for images for "Under Construction" could cause us to laugh. The symbols largely look like someone is shoveling. We really don't want anyone to think that this issue of "The Pulse" is worthy of a backyard burial. Yes, we are under construction, but with the objective of improving what already was – to become something even better. This second image, that signifies that we should all dig in – to both this issue of "The Pulse" and to our modes of communication in general, is preferable. Your patience during reconstruction is greatly appreciated!



## St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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### 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 Heffley.....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 Ziegler.....Treasurer  
Marjorie Weida.....Financial Secretary

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### January 5, 2025

10:15 am Epiphany Service of Word and Sacrament

1-5 Kutztown Historical Society  
Church Tour including St. Paul's UCC

3 pm Rejoicing Spirits

### January 20, 2025

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

## Scriptures this Month

### 1/5/25 Epiphany Sunday

\* Isaiah 60:1-6  
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
@ Matthew 2:1-12  
"Seeking a Star"

### 1/12/25 Baptism of the Lord

\* Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
@ Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### 1/19/25

Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

### 1/26/25

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21

\* To be read in worship  
@ Sermon Scripture

## Newsletter

JANUARY

15

Deadline





God calls us into the church to be a community of faith. We are called to be together.

Several years ago, we couldn't do that safely. We had to stay home alone or in our safety pods and families. Now we can be together, but things just aren't the same. Not all the families we used to see have come back to church. We've all aged a little – sometimes feeling like a lot. But still, we are invited to come together in faith. We are called to come together to hear God's word, to support each other and to dream of and fulfill mission projects that serve those outside our doors. We can do so much more together than we can do alone. So...our newsletter is a tool to bring us together – not to replace our time in worship, fellowship and service.

The new design for our church newsletter is changing but rather than just slap one together, a group convened by our consistory president, Kathy Landis, met several times to discuss and discern changes. We've talked about the purpose of the newsletter, what we want in it, what we don't really think is necessary anymore and how we might efficiently circulate it - without breaking the bank and killing too many trees.

Almost all newsletters are now delivered via email. People who don't have email can pick up their copies at church. We will deliver newsletters to friends who are homebound, and we may still need to mail a few out (with first class postage). If you don't see something in this abbreviated newsletter that you'd like to see, please let us know. You can contact the church office at [office@stpaulskutztown.org](mailto:office@stpaulskutztown.org) or reach out to Pastor Deb [pastordebtrimmins@stpaulskutztown.org](mailto:pastordebtrimmins@stpaulskutztown.org).

**"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2**

On Sunday, January 5th, we will celebrate Epiphany in worship. As part of that service, we will receive "Star Words."

The use of star words, also called "star gifts," is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, are written on or with stars. These paper stars are then arranged in a basket. At some point during the Epiphany service, individuals are invited to draw a word from the basket, and to use that word as a guiding word throughout the year. Participants are encouraged to trust the word they have drawn, and not to replace the word. Individuals are encouraged to place their star word somewhere they will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word.

Several Theological Statements Made in this Tradition:

1. The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.
2. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.
3. We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is a great gift.
4. We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speak to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. We believe that star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.
5. By not looking or sorting through the star words at their selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not us that are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

Adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)



Melinda Miller	January 1
Henry Bard	January 4
Dennis Bubbenmoyer	January 6
Terri Hilbert	January 6
Melissa Unger	January 7
Kathryn Widdows	January 8
Gretchen Barrell	January 9
Fernando Garcia	January 10
Christopher Rarick	January 12
Jonathan Rarick	January 12
Ted Thomas	January 14
Patrick Fitzgerald	January 16
Chelsie Kistler	January 19
Debra Conover	January 21
Jeryl Kulp	January 26
Mason Moriarty	January 27
Gene Madeira	January 29
Tyler Luckenbill	January 30
Jonathan Hilbert	January 31

## Memorial Service

A service to celebrate and honor the life of Erma Angstadt will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2025, (her 100th birthday) at 2:00 p.m. in Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, 47 South Whiteoak Street, Kutztown, with the Rev. Sharon S. Morris officiating. Relatives and friends are invited to a visitation from 1:00 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the church. Inurnment will be private at the convenience of the family in Union Cemetery of Bowers. Following the celebratory service, a reception will be held at the Moselem Springs Golf Club.

## Young at Heart Schedule 2025

January 15: Floral bookmark by Kathleen Walch of Local Folk Creative Studio

February 19: History of Bethlehem Steel based on the book by Steve Landis, Photographer, and John Landis, Tour Guide at the Steel Stacks

March 19: Jon Bond, artist- program. TBD

April 16: Peter and Jane Wolfe, naturalists, and birders--slides and stories of their Africa trip

**Consistory Update:** Due to bad weather and many consistory members tied up with Family Holiday events, the regular consistory meeting was not held in December. Instead, a quick consistory meeting was held after worship on December 15<sup>th</sup> to authorize the responsible payment of expenditures and to re-affirm Pastor Deb's housing allowance for 2025.

The next consistory meeting is scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>, where we will thank all outgoing elders and deacons and vote for Consistory officers for the coming year.

Thank you to all who have served Christ faithfully through the ministries of St. Paul's UCC.



For anyone interested in officially becoming a member of the congregation, we will meet on Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

We know you are already part of the family, and at this meeting, we will talk about how to make it official.

# JANUARY 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	2 6-9 PM Kutztown Lions Club 6:15 PM Bells Prac- tice	3	4 8:30 AM Manna at Grace Church 9:30 AM Yoga
5 Pastor Sunday Epiphany Communion 1-5PM Historical Tour 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	6 6 PM Yoga	7 10 AM Advent Study 7 PM Bible Study	8 7 PM Consistory	9 9:30 AM Pulse Mtg. 6:15 PM Bells Prac- tice	10 7:30 PM KFM Society Al Zentner	11 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga
12 Undecorate Sanctuary 2 PM Celebration of Life—Erma Angstadt	13 6 PM Yoga	14 11 AM Worship Mtg.	15 10 AM– 12 Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilters	16 6–8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge) 6:15 PM Bells Prac- tice	17	18 9:30 AM Yoga
19	20 6 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Fellowship 7 PM Missions	21 7 PM Bible Study	22	23 6:15 PM Bells Prac- tice	24	25 9AM-10PM Crafting 9:30 AM Yoga
26 Installation of Elders/ Deacons/Consistory	27 6 PM Yoga 7 PM Property	28	29 7 PM Women's Guild	30	31	