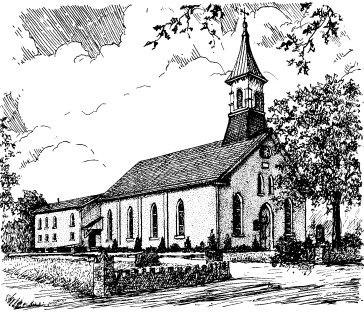


Saint Luke's

United Church of Christ of Trappe



December 2020 Newsletter

Worship Schedule

Pastor Patrick Morris

Office – 610-489-4933

Office email - administrator@stlukes-trappe.org

www.stlukesucc.org

Blended Service 9:30 AM

3rd Sunday of Mo. Healing Service 9:30 AM

Sunday school 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month.

Greetings to you, the members and friends of St. Luke's United Church of Christ. I am the Rev. Patrick Morris, and I will be serving as the bridge pastor at St. Luke's for the months to come. As a bridge pastor, I will be working half-time and performing all the duties as your pastor. But I also will be walking with you as you seek a new pastor.

I have been in the ministry for 33 years. My wife Sharon and I are from Virginia. Previously, we were farmers in the Shenandoah Valley operating a dairy, turkey, and crop farm. In 1986, we left the farm in order for me to begin the process of becoming and ordained minister. We moved to Pennsylvania in 1990. In 1992, I graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary and was called as the senior pastor at St. Paul's UCC, Amityville. I served in Amityville until 2008 when I accepted the call at St. Paul's UCC in Fleetwood. I retired from full-time ministry in August of this year.

Sharon is also ordained, having served several churches in the PA Southeast Conference. Sharon also retired in August from her position as the associate conference minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference.

I do not have to tell you how our world has changed since March. The pandemic has caused upheaval in the lives of our families, at our places of work, in our schools, and as members of this community of faith. Hopefully vaccines will soon be on their way, ushering in a more "normal" world with the end of the tunnel insight. As your pastor, my intentions are to journey with you as we recover. I look forward to the day when I can look into the faces of people without a mask.

I cannot wait until I can go wherever I want, whenever I want, and do whatever I want to do without the worry of becoming infected with the virus. Until that time comes, I covenant with you to be the body of the living Christ at St. Luke's. I promise to care for you, to teach you, to encourage you, and to guide you to the next new thing God will be doing in this congregation.

To that end, I wish you a blessed Advent as we prepare ourselves again for the coming of the Savior. May we be a people of Advent, waiting with full confidence that Christ will come and redeem us as the living Son of God.

Blessings,
Pastor Pat

December Scripture Readings

Date	Old Testament	2nd Lesson	Epistle	Gospel
Dec. 6	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 13	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalms 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 20	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
Dec. 27	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Psalms 148	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:22-40

KEEPING IN TOUCH!!

Robert Keyser is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Luke's Sunday Service
Time: Every week on Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://zoom.us/meeting/tJ0tcOqqgiosEtSAY41dU_iC1K7xp-OkLr83/ics?icsToken=98tyKuChrjwpGNCUthGHRox5Ao_Cb-rwiH5dj7duvSaxUiRmXQrVZ8kVKqIyP9P8](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/join/j/99073241680?pwd=ZURWZ2NiTzI4WTlGRHVWcWhwcG9tdz09)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99073241680?pwd=ZURWZ2NiTzI4WTlGRHVWcWhwcG9tdz09>

Meeting ID: 990 7324 1680

Pass code: 211290

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,99073241680#,,,,,0#,,211290# US (New York)

+13017158592,,99073241680#,,,,,0#,,211290# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 990 7324 1680

Pass code: 211290

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/99073241680?pwd=ZURWZ2NiTzI4WTlGRHVWcWhwcG9tdz09>

Thanks,

Bob Keyser

bob@keyseronline.com

M: (610) 587-2597

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A Little Christmas History

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

December 2 Becky Duncan
December 6 Melanie Prudom
December 9 Chase Salerno



December 16 Sarah Brand
December 22 Walter Daller, IV
December 28 Amy Conrad



Stewardship at St. Luke's

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is a Christian's response to the question asked by the author of Psalm 116:

***How shall I make a return to the Lord
for all the good He has done for me?***

Stewardship is a way of life inspired by the belief that we should thank God for all he has given us by giving of ourselves to the church and to the community. Most of us realize how much God has done for us: God has given us our lives, our talents, our ability to make money and everything we have on this earth. God's greatest gift, of course, is the gift of Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ. So how do we show our appreciation for these gifts?

Through the years, we have learned that stewardship involves giving of our "Time, talents, and treasure." But what does this really mean?

One definition of a "Christian Steward" says:

"A Good Christian Steward: Receives God's gifts graciously, nurtures them responsibly, shares them in love and justice, stands accountable before the Lord."

This definition speaks to the actions of a steward, as opposed to just name the gifts. It gives us a guide as to how to be a good steward. We are to recognize that God is the source of all our physical and mental abilities, as well as our material goods. We are to develop and use them ALL, and share them generously with our fellow human beings.

Think of it as "Living our Gifts."

"Treasure" is the concept that we tend to associate the most with Stewardship. Our yearly budget depends greatly on our Stewardship drive in the fall. The church has a cost of living, just as your family does. There are bills to pay, events that require funding and missions that we support that all require our financial support. We are always encouraged to make a consistent gift to the offertory in thanksgiving for the gifts God has given to us.

Consider offering your treasure by prayerfully reflecting on the gifts God has giving you and sharing those financial gifts regularly with the church so collectively we can strive to make a difference in God's world.

"Time" We all have busy schedules, but using our time to regularly communicate with God is a big part of being a good Christian Steward. How will we know what to do if we aren't listening to Him for guidance?

Spending time with God in prayer is the beginning of stewardship. Only when we spend time with God in prayer are we spiritually prepared to offer ourselves in service to the church and to others.

Consider offering your time by committing to:

Attending church every Sunday	Inviting a friend or acquaintance to church
Praying together with you family	Taking time to discuss the faith with your family
Reading the Bible every day	Spending 15 minutes a day in personal prayer

"Talent" God has given you special gifts and talents. Each and every person has been created and gifted in a unique and completely individual manner. God created you with these spiritual gifts for your benefit and for the benefit of others. You and only you can offer the gifts you have been given.

Consider offering your talents by committing to committees, projects and service within the church and community.

Stewardship Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, come. Fill me with your gifts of wisdom and understanding. Open my eyes that I may see the path God has laid before me. Open my ears that I may hear His call. Open my heart that I may know and share His love with others. Holy Spirit guide me as I discern the gifts I have been given and help me to offer them back without reserve to the Father for the benefit of His people. Clear my life of distractions and obstacles so that I may respond to His call. Come Holy Spirit come and enkindle in me a burning desire to share my unique gifts.

Amen

Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks upon the world, ours are the feet with which he goes about doing good, ours are the hands with which he blesses his people.

- St. Teresa of Avila

MISSIONS TEAM is back in action. We are meeting in-person the second Monday of every month @ 7:00 p.m. starting December 14, 2020. If in-person is not possible, we will meet via zoom

REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE

Lillian Spring is in Columbia Cottage - 901 E. Main Street, Collegeville, PA 19426, Room 17.

At this time please call the main number - 610-409-7950 and ask for Lillian.

We will keep you up to date when we have more information.

“Thank You”

To My Dear Church Family Members:

Please know how much I appreciate all the prayers and beautiful cards and phone calls during my stay in Rehab. Lillian Spring

DECEMBER NOISY OFFERING - Arbor Day Foundation

O Tannenbaum, O Tannebaum -- we all know that Christmas song. Don't you just love the Christmas tree tradition? You probably have warm memories of Christmases past--putting up your family's tree, placing the lights and ornaments in place, and enjoying the sight of it in your home throughout Advent. If you still get a fresh tree vs. artificial, you also enjoy the wonderful fresh evergreen smell. The sight of the tree going up in the sanctuary is another important symbol of this sacred time of year. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

The beneficiary of our December Noisy Offering will be the Arbor Day Foundation. This is the environmental organization involved in fighting climate change by conserving and planting trees. They work to replace trees lost to fire, flood, hurricane or other natural disaster. Or to reclaim or improve a forest area damaged by insects or enhance an urban landscape. They are preserving the rainforest for the health of our planet. You can even plant a tree in honor or memory of a loved one. Those are just a few of their many global programs and initiatives. Find out more at: <https://www.arborday.org/programs>.

Please donate your loose change and coins on Sunday, December 13th. Let's help replace a few of the trees that will be harvested for Christmas 2020 with some new ones that might bless someone's home in the years to come. Thank you. Missions Team

A VIRTUAL POINSETTIA

It has been decided that we will not be having poinsettias in the Church this year due to the Covid uncertainty. We will be asking you to sponsor a "Virtual Poinsettia" to honor your loved ones.

We would like you to consider a free-will offering that will be donated to the food bank for the Holiday Season.

The name of your loved ones will be included during our normal Christmas church service. Please send the slips and the donation to the Church Office or place them in the collection plate.

Thank you.

In honor of _____

By _____

In Memory of _____

By _____

In Memory of departed loved ones _____

By _____



December Sunday Leader Schedule



Church Access Volunteers - Volunteers are needed to open and close the church on Sundays. Please see **Beverly Spaid** to schedule and review tasks. If you wish to be an usher/greeter please see **Brenda Kurtz** or sign the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

9:30 Blended Service **Schedule if there is in church services**

	<u>Lay Leader</u>	<u>Children's Time</u>	<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Dec. 6				
Dec. 13	Sue Linkenhoker			
Dec. 20	Beverly Spaid			
Dec 24	Kathy Narrigan			
Dec. 27	Tom Lloyd			
Jan. 3	Jim Narrigan			

Sunday Leader Scheduling Note

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, **please find a replacement** by switching dates with someone on the schedule and contact the church office as soon as possible so we may make note of the change. **If you are unable to find a replacement, please contact the church office and we will be happy to do so.**

Articles for the Sunday bulletin are due in the church office by Wednesday. Newsletter deadline for the January Newsletter is December 18th and mailing is December 23rd.

PRAYER LIST

People in need of prayers: Corie Bowers, Linda Miller, Nick Iacorinno,





People with on-going conditions and prayer needs: Barbara and Mark Nieweg, Betty Murphy, Casey S., Debbie Parker, Eli and Ella Vivian, Elsa Thomas, Greg Kimmich, Jack Murphy, Mike Richardson, Mitzie Oxenham, Nancy Lewis, Rod Bowers, Tim Heiser and Tricia White Heiser.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our prayer shawl ministry is still alive and well. If you or your family or a friend are facing surgery or have a serious illness, accident or chronic condition and would like a prayer shawl, please call Sue Gregory, Bev Spaid or Dottie Snader. As these shawls are crocheted, we are praying and then they are blessed by the minister and our prayers for healing and comfort go with them. God bless you.

DECEMBER



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov. 29 COMMUNION 9:30 Service Rev. Morris and Zoom First Sunday of Advent 	Nov. 30	1	2	3 7:30 GANON	4	5
6 9:30 Service Rev. Morris and Zoom Second Sunday of Advent 	7	8 6:30 Elders 7:30 Council	9	10 7:30 GANON	11 Hanukah Begins	12
13 9:30 Service Rev. Morris and Zoom Third Sunday of Advent 	14 7:00 Mission Team	15	16	17 7:30 GANON	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	19
20 9:30 Service Rev. Morris and Zoom Fourth Sunday of Advent 	21	22	23 NEWSLETTER MAILING	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 Service w/ communion 7:30 GANON	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 Hanukah Begins
27 9:30 Service Rev. Morris and Zoom First Sunday after Christmas	28	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE 7:30 GANON		

**ST. LUKE'S U.C.C. OF TRAPPE
200 WEST MAIN STREET
COLLEGEVILLE PA 19426-2007**

December Newsletter

**Dated Material-
Deliver Promptly**



St. Luke's Mission Statement

**Centered in God,
guided by His Word,
we share Christ's love with all.**