

The Crier

St. Philip's United Church of Christ
10708 Lavinia Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63123
314-843-5100

DECEMBER 2017

St. Philip's Mission Statement

St. Philip's United Church of Christ is a loving Christian community believing in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to share God's love with all people.

Vision Statement

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ with:
Minds to study God's word, Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others, Arms to welcome all,
Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.



God is still speaking



Winter Solstice Celebration, December 20

Wednesday evening, December 20, will be the longest night of the year, known as the Winter Solstice, for those of us who live in the northern hemisphere. This is the night that our part of the world has turned farthest from the sun, causing the cold days of winter. Ancient people were deeply conscious of this, and in northern regions they set aside this night for special prayers and lit fires to summon back the sun. The joy of this night is that each following day brings back a little more light, until the Summer Solstice in June heralds the return of summer warmth.

In the early centuries of Christianity, the darkness of wintertime came to be regarded as the time to celebrate the coming of Jesus, who brings the light of God into the darkneses of our world. This is the reason for the season of Advent and the holy celebration of Christmas at this time of year.

We invite all members and friends of St Philip's to spend an early evening hour of the Winter Solstice together on Wednesday, December 20, at 7:00. Our service that evening will remember the Christian meaning of the Solstice, and will include the ceremony of lighting candles in prayer for our personal needs, our loved ones and the world, as well as the ancient rite of anointing for spiritual healing. The service will be held with all participants seated in a circle in the gathering area of the church, and following the Solstice Service there will be light refreshments and a time for fellowship.

Solstice worship is truly a beautiful occasion. We hope you will plan for it to be a special part of your own Advent/Christmas experience this year.

What will you do in the morning on December 24?

This is one of those odd-feeling years when the fourth Sunday in Advent is also Christmas Eve. There's no question what we'll be doing that evening: We're planning for Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 7:00, with Holy Communion, followed by the lighting of candles as we sing Silent Night together in remembrance of Jesus' birth. But what will we be doing at 9:30 in the morning - our usual hour of worship?

Our plan at St Philip's is to spend our morning worship hour in an informal celebration, lighting the Advent wreath, sharing the story of Christmas, singing our favorite Christmas carols to Mike's accompaniment on the accodian, and enjoying some cookies or pastries together. Children are welcome, so it will be a good time for families to gather in our larger Christian family for a little light-hearted expression of joy in the Savior's birth.

Schnucks Grocery Card

These cards are not bought like the others we use... You get this one free from the Service counter at a store or ask the people selling cards some Sunday... On the card are the directions you use to register it then keep the registered card(s) with you when you shop there. You get one wallet sized card and one key chain sized card. Registration can all be done with a toll free call. A small sheet of paper that has all the information you will need about the church to register it is also available with your new cards picked up at church. Once it's registered you just show it to the cashier BEFORE they start to ring you out... The purchase amount with their contribution to us is automatically added to our monthly check from them... Some of you only purchase from Schnucks part of the time but would be surprised to see how these infrequent visits add up... IF YOU BUY AT SCHNUCKS BE SURE TO HAVE A CARD TO USE.... "The Sales Crew"



*JoAnn Leber, Paula Williams,
Jay Williams, Ben Metz, Janet Remmers,
Marilyn Milne, Tom and Pam Kelley and
Rev. Doug Anders*



Pastor's Office Hours

Mondays: 10:00AM - 2:00PM
Tuesdays: 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Please feel free to call for an appointment (314) 971-9041 Cell

New email address-
fluentallen1@gmail.com



CHOIR
rehearsals are on
Thursday nights from
3:00p - 5:00p

Come Join Us!

Please sign up on the bulletin board to be liturgist. Thank you for giving it consideration.

Tammy Knoll

Outreach News: The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues, and is coordinated by Jeannine Navratil. Thanks to Shirley Nottleman and Clarine Burrow, who recently contributed shawls. Our Advent project will provide Gifts and Apples and Oranges to the St John's Community Service Ministry, a UCC sponsored food pantry in North City. St Philips has participated in their Cookies With Santa Program for many years. We received a call from Johnniest Henry, director of the pantry, this week. There is no heat in the meeting room where the party was to be held, so we are sad to report that the Cookies With Santa Party is cancelled for this year. Johnniest asked that we continue to collect hats, mittens, gifts, and money for apples and oranges, as she would like to give them to pantry customers in the weeks prior to Christmas. We plan to deliver the gifts to her on Monday December 11, so gifts can be brought to church until Sunday December 10.

St. Philip's Christmas Program

ST. PHILIP'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be held Wednesday, December 13 and will include a Special Christmas Pageant, Singing of Carols, an all-ages craft and dinner. This event is planned for all St Philip's members, children, grandchildren, and LOGOS participants, parents and grandparents. We hope that St Philip's members will contribute cookies for dessert. The program will be at 5:00 and the dinner after the the Christmas program and craft. A sign up sheet will be posted. We hope all will attend, as it will be fun!

Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon

**Tuesday, December 12 @ 11:30 am
Olive Garden on South Lindbergh**

Come and enjoy lunch together!

Please contact Lois Decker for further information @ (314)843-0183

From the Search Committee

A copy of the St. Philip's church profile for the search process is in the church office. If you would like to read it, contact Marsha so she knows you will be coming to church. The profile should remain at church.

Carl Philips,
Chairperson

Book Club News: We are currently reading The Zookeepers Wife, by Diane Ackerman, with discussion scheduled for after church on December 17. Our next selection is Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance, a highly acclaimed memoir about growing up poor in Appalachia.

Lunch Bunch Invitation

Even if you have been naughty or nice you all are invited to sign up for Lunch Bunch held at noon on Wednesday, December 13th at Sandy Stevenson's House.

Please bring one or two wrapped white elephants or dollar gifts for a Sneaky Santa game. This is your chance to get rid of that year old fruit cake you got last Christmas.

We will also be singing, humming, lip - synching, or just plain listening to Christmas carols with Mike's help.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas fun time. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. See you the 13th.

**Hosted by
Leona Gottschlich and Mary Dykstra**



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to our members who will be celebrating
 (We will sing "It's Your Birthday" on the 1st Sunday of each month)

Gail Knoll	1	Robyn Mikusch	15
Alex Balzer	2	Zoe Azzara	18
Linda Kotthoff	5	Madeline Williamson	18
Nicholas Balzer	7	Ken Faerber	23
Kim Tangeman	7	Chloe Armistead	24
Sarah Witte	9	Karen Nickel	26
Carla Moran	11	Katie Eason	28

JOIN US!

Join the fun with LOGOS at St. Philip's U.C.C.

Wednesday evenings this spring!

Session begins January 10



Children, youth and adults grow Christian relationships through recreation, Bible study, worship arts, and a Family Time meal. Please check the website or office for registration. Please contact Andrea Tugin

at andreatukin@gmail.com or (314) 566-8633

if you would like to volunteer.



CALENDAR

- December 3 Advent Season Begins
- 9 Advent Project "Cookies With Santa" Cancelled
(St. John's Community Service Ministry)
- 12 1130a Women's Fellowship Christmas Luncheon
(Olive Garden on South Lindbergh)
- 13 Noon Lunch Bunch at Sandy Stevenson home
(Mary Dykstra & Leona Gottslich Hosting)
- 13 5p Logos Christmas Program Dinner & Crafts
- 17 Poinsettias Order Deadline
- 20 7p Winter Solstice
(Winter's Eve Celebration)
- 24 930a Informal Morning Worship Hour
- 7p Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
(Holy Communion, Lighting of the Candles)

Christmas Poinsettias



Again this year there will be an opportunity for you to help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias. You have a choice of red, pink, white or marble flowers. The cost of the plants will be \$9.00 each. Please let us know if the flowers are given in memory or honor of someone.

An order form is attached below. Please fill it out and bring it to church and place in the offering tray or give it to Marsha Jacques in the church office. Orders and money need to be in the office by Sunday, **December 17th**. Please make the check payable to Walter Knoll Florist. Thank You!



I/We _____

Would like _____ red poinsettias
_____ pink poinsettias
_____ white poinsettias
_____ marble poinsettias

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Please make check payable to Walter Knoll Florist.

***Put in the offering plate or give to Marsha Jacques
in the church office by Sunday, **December 17th**.***

