

The Crier

January 2023

St. Philip's United Church of Christ

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” (Matthew 2:6)

Greetings St. Philip's UCC!

Twelve days after Christmas, it isn't a partridge in a pear tree that we celebrate, but rather the coming of the wise ones to see Jesus by following a bright star. Epiphany is the season of seeking to wisely discern the movement of God in the world, and boldly following the illumination of God's light as we work to build God's kingdom of love and grace here and now.

When the wise ones saw a new star, they came to king Herod to inquire about the new king. The religious leaders tell Herod that the prophecies say that this new king will come to “shepherd my people Israel.” But instead of celebrating that a really incredible king who will take really good care of the people (like a shepherd who cares for their sheep) is coming—instead of celebrating that this could be a sign that really good things are on the horizon for the Israelite people, who are currently under Roman occupation—instead of celebrating, Herod is filled with fear. Fear that he will lose his power and position.

Surely, there are no Herods left in the world, two thousand years later, right? No one who allows fear of losing their own position or power or status or authority to cause them to try to throw a wrench in the good things God is doing in the world. No one who would let fear cloud over their better judgement to love.

The wise ones, who weren't part of the Israelite community, who didn't know about the God of love and grace, they followed the star, offered gifts to Jesus, and listened to the whisper of the Holy Spirit to not report back to Herod. These wise ones were transformed by the movement of God in the world—a star, the Christ child, guidance from the Spirit in a dream.

Indeed, may we follow the example of the wise ones, and lean into what God is up to in the world. May we be on the lookout for Herods, whose fear holds them back from participating in God's good work in the world, or worse, tries to stop it. May we wisely watch for the movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst, and may the light of Christ's love guide us as we journey together into a new year, boldly committing to continue building God's kingdom of love and grace right here, right now.

Epiphany blessings, friends!
Peace and Prayers,
Pastor Laura

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*



St. Philip's Vision Statement

**Our
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.

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our members who will be celebrating a birthday in January.

The following words will be heard on the 1st Sunday of each month....

*"Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday to You!,
Happy Birthday Everybody!,
and God Bless you!"*

Joel Knoll	1
Charles Zikes	2
Walter Knoll	3
John Mikusch	3
Carl Schillinger	4
Libby Coleman	6
Caylie Armistead	7
Emily Coleman	8
Paula Williams	9
Andrew Knoll	12
Hannah Schillinger	17
Robin Knoll	17
Jeff Stevenson	18

Jane Eason	19
Jeremy Decker	22
Marilyn Eason	23
Lois Decker	28
Beth Hickman	29
Joyce Brand	31



Contact the Pastor



Feel free to contact Pastor Laura anytime:

Cell (314) 452-0785

Office (314) 843-5100

or email

lmignerone@gmail.com



Gail Avery

Grace Heady

Pam Kelly

Marilyn Milne

Jered Nagle

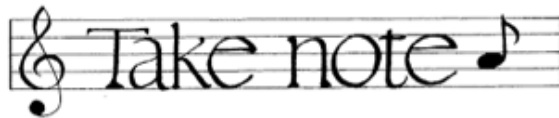
Shirley Nottelmann

The Remmers Family

Paul Shrout

Lily Swanson

Paula Williams



Choir Rehearsals - Meeting dates

January 1, 15, and 29 after Worship

The Choir rehearses the Anthem and Hymns for the upcoming Sunday worship service. New members are always welcome. There is no audition - anyone with a love for music and a desire to sing is invited to join. Rehearsal lasts usually about an hour and we always have fun! Contact Mike Orzel, our Music Director, for more information.

PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Thank you for bringing your used Canon and HP cartridges to church for recycling. Please continue to put them in the collection box in the entry space.

Also, we no longer recycle plastic lids. Please don't bring them to church but do continue to recycle them appropriately. All the little things, done by a lot of people, do make a difference!

WORSHIP LISTENING DEVICES

Listening devices used during worship are now available in the Admin Assistant Office. You can find them as you walk in the door to the right.



OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

Thanks for your generosity for funding the "Adopt a Family" program sponsored by Feed My People. As of last count, we collected \$575.

Each of the six family members received a \$50 gift card and a homemade scarf from our Cap, Mitten and Scarf tree. We also sent a \$50 grocery card for a special holiday meal. This left an excess balance of \$225. The Outreach Ministry voted to send the \$225 and the \$200 remaining in our budgeted Miscellaneous fund to Feed My People to help our family with utility bills, for a total of \$425 which can be used for utility relief. I am sure this will be a wonderful surprise for our family!!



As you have no doubt noticed, our Hat, Mitten and Scarf Tree is beautiful. Soon, we will untrim the tree, and take the items to Caroline Mission. Totals below include contributions from ECC's Mitten Mania.

Hats 87
Scarves 34
Gloves/Mittens 92
Socks 8

I am sure many children and adults will be warm and toasty because of your generosity.



Please wear your name tag during worship.

Thank you!



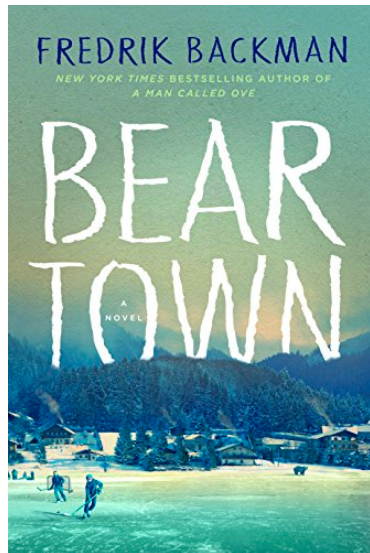
It's been a whirlwind of a first month in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas--but a joyful whirlwind for sure!

Thank you for the extravagant welcome Gabe and I received into the St. Philip's family, for all your kind words and expressions of grace as I get settled in, and for so many sweet cards, gifts, and the generous Christmas bonus!

With gratitude,
Pastor Laura



Sunday, January 29
10:15am



We will meet after church on Sunday, January 29 to discuss *Beartown* by Fredrick Backman. We enjoyed reading several of his earlier books, and expect we will like this one as well.

There is plenty of time to read it by January 29! We share a potluck lunch, and we always have a good time. Please feel free to join us, even if you have not read the book! Also, it is not necessary to bring food, as we always seem to have more than enough! Barbara Barnes has extra copies of this book, and you can pick one up at church on Sundays or arrange for home delivery.



LUNCH BUNCH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023

The next Lunch Bunch outing will be held on Wednesday, January 11 at noon at Joe Boccardi's located at 8556 Watson Road near Rockhill Road. Their phone number is 314-849-7976. Please see the BLUE signup sheet on the bulletin board and signup by Sunday, January 8. If you have any questions, contact Lois Decker at 314-843-0183.

JOINT WORSHIP MEETING

St. Philip's Spiritual Life Committee and St. John's Worship Team will meet together on Sunday, January 29 at 1:30pm at Pastor Laura's home in Eureka (halfway for both churches) to discuss all things worship related: what's working/not, planning ahead, and what creative possibilities we might imagine together. Thank you!

November 2022 General Fund Summary

Receipts

Sunday Offering	10,043.25	
Interest Income	161.38	
Early Childhood Center	<u>9,500.00</u>	
Total		19,704.63

Expenses

Learning Ministry	170.00	
Financial Ministry	1,855.70	
Church Property Ministry	7,724.44	
Personnel	<u>5,128.73</u>	
Total		<u>14,878.87</u>

November Surplus	4,825.76
Previous Balance	<u>2,712.30</u>
November 30 Balance	7,538.06
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November Building Fund Summary

Beginning Balance	5,525.48
Building Fund Offering	1,031.75
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>(417.00)</u>
November Ending Balance	6,140.23
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November Improvements Offering Summary

Beginning Balance	1,987.37
November Offering	307.00
Amount applied to roof replacement	<u>(2,000.00)</u>
November Ending Balance	294.37
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00 Church Council Zoom Mtg	3	4	5	6	7 2:00 Memorial Service
8 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person	9	10	11 noon Lunch Bunch @ Joe Boccardi's	12	13	14
15 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	16 4:30 ECC Board Meeting	17	18 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	19	20	21
22 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person	23	24 February CRIER Articles Due	25 5:30-7:00 LOGOS	26 6:30-9:00 Quilters	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 Sunday School In-person 10:15 Choir Rehearsal	30	31				

JANUARY