

*First Coming
by Madeleine L'Engle*

*He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.*

*He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait
till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.*

*He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.*

*We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*



Ready or not, Christmas is just around the corner. No matter how early I start planning or shopping I never feel ready for Christmas. There is always more to clean, more to cook, more to buy.

The world didn't feel ready for God, when Jesus was born either. It's good that Christ came into the world anyway. If God had waited for us to be ready for Jesus's arrival, he may never have shown up. Take some time this Advent to prepare for Christ's birth. But remember you will never be ready, so relax and rejoice knowing that Christ will come anyway.

Journeying with you,
Pastor Jill

Religion Making a Difference

The breakfast we know today could be due to the push of lobbyists, and men of religion.

Leading up to the 19th century, breakfast was anything people could get their hands on, including leftovers from dinner the previous night. It was not until the 1880s when people started to refine the menu to food such as eggs. The first cereal was invented by James Caleb Jackson and the first brand by John Harvey Kellogg. Both creations have roots in sanatoriums. Both Jackson and Kellogg were early seventh-day Adventists, and pushed breakfast as a way of eating healthy.

Edward Bernays, working for the Beech Nut company, got a doctor to agree that a protein-rich heavy meal of bacon and eggs was better than a light meal, and got 5,000 more doctors to sign off on the logic.

Open and Affirming

In April as a congregation we voted to begin the process to determine if we are being called to become an Open and Affirming Church. Open and Affirming is the official designation of the United Church of Christ for congregations that are officially welcoming to lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender persons. This will be a year-long time of listening and learning in hopes of discerning where God is calling our congregation at this time.

We began this process by having small group listening sessions. The final listening session will be Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. at the St. Paul's Ministry House. In the spring we will have other opportunities to learn more and determine where God is leading.

We want to get input from as many congregation members as possible. So, please don't hesitate to contact one of the team members—Pastor Jill, Anne Heinrich, Judy Olsen and Doug Volkening.

In the event of bad weather . . .

Before we know it, winter storms will be upon us. In order to keep informed about church cancellations, we have set up an account through Remind. If you signed up last year you do not need to do anything. If you have not signed up, or if your e-mail or phone number has changed, please follow the steps below.

- To sign up for text alerts from St. Paul's, text this: @stpaulsuc to 224.231.5038. You will immediately get a text back asking for your name. Reply with your name.
- To sign up to receive e-mail alerts, send an e-mail to: stpaulsuc@mail.remind.com. You can leave the subject and message of the e-mail blank.
- If you do not have texting or e-mail, sign up for a phone call by calling the church office (847.628.6118) or leave your name on the sign-up sheet on the back table in the Narthex.

Advent Workshop and Chili Cook-Off



Updated Prayer Cards

A couple years ago at St. Paul's, we began making available a "We prayed for you . . ." card for members to send to the people they lifted up at prayer time during the worship service. It was meant to extend God's love and comfort to those who needed to feel the presence of God in their lives during a difficult time.

In an effort to re-energize this ministry, the prayer card has been re-designed and updated with a new, powerful image. There is space on the other side for someone to write a personal note as well as the address.

Starting this fall the cards will now be postage paid! As an outreach of St. Paul's Church, the Evangelism Ministry will be covering the cost of mailing the card for you.

So when you lift someone up during prayer time, remember to get a card and send it to them and share God's love in this simple but meaningful way.

Pledges and Contributions

It's that time of year again to get your pledges and contributions caught up. Also there is still time to get your pledge cards in for the 2017 budget.

Thanks and God Bless,
Judy, Joy, JoAnn and Corrine

December Greeters

Dec. 6 Lorrel and Sue Petty

Dec. 18 Mike and Ginny Mursewick

Dec. 11 Barb Kamp and Ruth Volkening

Dec. 25 Dan and Anne Heinrich

We want your pictures

If you take pictures at a church event please email them to Linda at stpauls4me@yahoo.com. Please include any descriptions. Your photos could appear in the digital edition of The Chimes.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Staff

Jill Terpstra – Pastor

Jon Kobel – Choir Director

Bill Wilson – Newsletter Editor

Linda Becker – Secretary

Gay Bouwmeester – Piano Accompanist

Dale Volkening - Janitor

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Anne Heinrich – President

Karen Westerman – Vice President

Sandy Volkening – Financial Secretary

Myron Meglin/Dave Thompson -Treasurer

Cindy Heinrich – Recording Secretary

Christian Education – Karen Smith

Evangelism – Polly Russell

Fellowship/Hospitality – Janet Werner

Mission – Barb Kamp

Calling & Caring – Ginny Mursewick

Properties – Dan Heinrich

Stewardship – JoAnn Pate

Worship – Vernon Knaak