

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, January 14, 2024



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783

Church Office Phone: 570-754-7225

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday

Church Email: summerhillucc@gmail.com

Website: www.summerhillucc.com

Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

**Service of Recognition and Installation
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **First, Schuylkill Haven** from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar.

Please read the announcements that are in this downloadable bulletin, as well as those we post on our Facebook site, our emails, and our phone calls, and then help spread the word to those who do not have access to any of those messages.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Speak to us, Lord, for your servants are listening.

People: The One who fashioned us in our mother's womb calls us this day.

Pastor: Lead us, O God, and we will follow.

People: The One acquainted with all our ways leads us into life.

Pastor: Bless us, Spirit of wisdom and truth, and guide us home.

People: The One who hems us in, from behind and before, is a lamp to our feet.

Pastor: Speak to us, Lord, for your servants are listening. Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 480....."Open My Eyes, That I May See"

*Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unlock and set me free.
Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see;
open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth you send so clear,
and while the message sounds in my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see;
open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

*Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart, and let me prepare love with your children thus to share.
Silently now, on bended knee, ready I wait your will to see;
open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of a thousand voices, we yearn to hear your call: when we lie down to sleep, when we rise to meet the sun, when we offer our industry, when we gather with family and friends. Speak to us once more, Lord of life, and forgive us when we mistake your call or dismiss it as a dream. Hem us in with your power and your might, that we may feel your hand leading us and your love guiding our way, through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

MOMENT OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: God never gives up on us, and Christ never forsakes us.

People: We will rejoice and be glad, for we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.

Pastor: Rejoice and be glad, for we are the beloved and forgiven children of God. Amen.

THE GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

ENGAGING THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: I Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) (Page 236)

Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (Read responsively)

Lector: LORD, you have searched me and known me.

People: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

Lector: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

People: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

Lector: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it....

Lector: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

People: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Lector: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

People: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

Lector: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

People: I try to count them—they are more than the sand; I come to the end—I am still with you.

Epistle: I Corinthians 6:12-20 (Page 994)

Gospel: John 1:43-51 (Page 923)

Lector: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE.....“Let Thy word abide in us, O Lord.”

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM.....“Here’s My Life” by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Let’s Make This Personal”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 425.....“Christ Beside Me”

*Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.*

*Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, light of my life.*

*Christ be in all hearts thinking about me, Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me, in ears that hear me Christ ever be.*

*Christ be beside me, Christ be before me, Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me, Christ be above me, never to part.*

CELEBRATION OF JANUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- Gabriel Donald, son of Benjamin & Amy Crouse
- Blake Harrison, son of Andrew and Melissa Reber
- Stella Ann, daughter of Andrew and Melissa Reber
- Luke Allen, son of Zachary and Alexis Palerino

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Apostles Creed in the form of a Litany

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO SERVED

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Greeting:

Pastor: Grace, mercy and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

People: To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.

Recognition of Those Who Serve:

Pastor: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Pastor: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Pastor: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Pastor: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Presentation and Covenant:

Pastor: These people have been called by God.....

Consistory Representative: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Declaration:

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING RESPONSE & DEDICATION.....DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Wherever you go, speak words of love and grace to everyone you meet.

People: We will speak words of hope and faith to gladden the heart and strengthen the spirit.

Pastor: As those who are called by the living God, invite others to hear Christ's call in their lives.

People: We will remind all God's children that God is speaking still.

BENEDICTION

THE THREEFOLD AMEN.....Amen. Amen. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN NO. 559.....“Here I Am, Lord”

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

Refrain: *Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my Word to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]*

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]*

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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Portions of today’s worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC’s Book of Worship, Worship Connection by Nancy C. Townley on MinistryMatters.com, and by B. J. Beu from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu..

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in memory of Billy Spotts by Donna, Vicky, Craig, Travis, Alyssa, Owen, Evan and Grant.

-The single red rose is in memory of Billy Spotts by Owen, Evan and Grant.

-Offering on Sunday, January 7, 2024: \$0

-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2024: \$3,243.09

-The January Communion Offering is designated to Women in Crisis.

-Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour)-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service **TODAY**. We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary the Second Sunday of each month. Catch up with old friends, make new ones, and stay up to date on everything happening at St. Paul’s. And best of all, it's free of charge!! If you would be interested in helping to assist in hosting a fellowship hour, please contact the church office or speak to Pastor Ken.

-VBS Winter Wonderland: All kids are welcome to join our extended Vacation Bible School and discover how God makes each of us unique...just like snowflakes! **We will meet TODAY** from 3:00-5:00pm. Please speak to Laura Carll (484-269-4405) for more information. Can't wait to see everyone there!

-The **Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry** is in great need and accepts all non-perishable food items/ paper products. Items can be dropped off at the church during the week or placed in the shopping cart at the back of the sanctuary. **NO OUTDATED FOOD PLEASE.** We will be helping **tomorrow, January 15** at 8:30am and **this Friday, January 19** at 1pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-There will be a Consistory Meeting on Tuesday, January 16 at 7pm in the conference room.

-A Cabinet Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 21 following Worship. It will be led by Mike Fessler to discuss direction for church activities in 2024. All leaders and any church member interested in providing suggestions and input on this topic are encouraged to attend. Your participation is appreciated.

-Please have all information for the 2023 Annual Report to the church office by no later than next Sunday, January 21. The Annual Report will be available early in February prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 25, 2024. Please email your articles to the church office at summerhillucc@gmail.com, or put them in the secretary's mailbox. Please contact Kelly if you have questions.

-Scout Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 4. Members of the Cub Scout Pack 651 and Boy Scout Troop 651 will participate in Worship at 10:30am.

-“Souper” Bowl Sunday: On Sunday, February 11, we will join thousands of other churches and organizations tackle hunger by collecting canned food and/or cash donations. All donations stay right in Schuylkill county to help our neighbors in need through the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. Look for the specially marked donation boxes and donation pans when you come to church on “Souper Bowl Sunday”!

-On February 11, we will honor couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries in 2024. If you are married 50 years, or you know of a couple in the church who is, please contact Kelly at the church office.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room. The next meeting will **Tuesday, February 13.** If you are interested in crocheting and/or knitting, we can hook you up! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

-Your help is needed!! Now that we have settled into our new sound and video equipment, we are looking for some additional people to help run it on a Sunday morning! Please let us know if you would be willing to help. We will then figure out a good mutual time to “train” those who are interested! Ideally, we will get a few people interested, and then sign up for Sundays either on a weekly or monthly basis, somewhat like the lectors.

-When you or a loved one is sick or in the hospital for an extended stay, please notify the church office. Please do not assume that the pastor will know you are there. We are served by many different area hospitals and do not know which one you may utilize. So please do not hesitate to let us know your condition so that Pastor Ken can provide you with spiritual care! You may call the church office at 570-754-7225 and leave a message 24/7 with your name, number, and what you are calling about. The staff will be notified remotely of your call and will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also email us at summerhillucc@gmail.com.

-Our church services are livestreamed on Facebook! We continue to reach many people who are unable to worship with us in person, giving them God's message of hope and love. Call the church office if you or someone you know needs help getting online.

-Prayer is Powerful! Please continue to call the church office or email us your prayer concerns to be included on our prayer list. We believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you. **We have a prayer concerns email group for anyone who would like to join.** Contact the church office and we will be happy to add you to the email distribution list. The Agape Committee continues to send cards to members on the prayer concerns list, so please continue sharing your concerns with us. Thank you!!

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National Leaders, *Shirley German, family and friends of Carolyn Rauenzahn, family and friends of Eva Stone, Gaige Guers, Eliza Kline, Guy Fessler, Brian Moyer, Jason Swick, Bev Kerschner, Rosanna Borgatta, Ron Mengel, Joe & Tamara Nagle and unborn son Matthias Joesph,* Darlene Richard, Curtis Bender, Mary Ann Shuliga, Dick Clauser, Anna Mae Minchoff, Cassie Wolfe, Harold Berkheiser, Marion Bartolet, Mabel Edwards

CANCER PATIENTS: Boone, Marie Bleu, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperna, Joan Krause, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Dr. Donald Moyer, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Terri Willard

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Sunday, January 14

-Fellowship Time (aka coffee hour) following worship

1:00 - 2:00 PM -Cub Scout cake drop off and judging

3:00 - 5:00 PM -Youth VBS "Winter Wonderland"

5:30 PM -Cub Scout pack meeting

Monday, January 15

8:30 AM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

Tuesday, January 16

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, January 17

5:30 PM -Confirmation Class

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 19

1:00 PM - Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

Saturday, January 20

10:00 AM -Brenda Fidler Visitation/ 11:00 AM -Celebration of Life Service with funeral luncheon served in the fellowship hall

Sunday, January 21 *Deadline for the Annual Report

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Installation of Consistory and the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries

-Cabinet Meeting following Worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

I Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20