

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, January 21, 2024



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday
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1782
Sunday, January 21, 2024

242 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2024
10:30am

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Friedens, Hegins** 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: For God alone our souls wait in silence.

People: In God alone do our spirits find peace.

Pastor: For God alone is our rock and our salvation.

People: In God alone does our faith remain unshaken.

Pastor: Pour out your hearts before God.

People: For God is our refuge and our strength.

Pastor: Put your trust in God.

People: God's steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 345....."Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult"

*Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me."*

*Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."*

*In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."*

*Jesus calls us--by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Holy One, you have called us from the seashore to service in this world. You have pulled us from our comfort to embrace the inconvenience of servanthood. You have put before us an opportunity that we never truly wanted. But like Jonah, who resented going where you sent him, we are restless and resistant. Forgive us when we'd rather sleep in a boat and go about a casual kind of life. Forgive us when we'd rather live our days as we always have and let the tides carry us where they will. May the storms of our days shake us to new awareness and renewed paths of faithful living. 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: Just as God forgave the people of Nineveh when they repented and turned from their ways,

People: So God will forgive us also, when we turn to walk in the paths of life.

Pastor: Pour out your hearts before God, our refuge and our strength. We are forgiven and loved by 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, Mike Fessler

Old Testament: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (Page 801)
Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12 **(Read responsively)**

Lector: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

People: He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Lector: On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

People: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

Lector: Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

People: Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Lector: Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God,

People: and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

Epistle: I Corinthians 7:29-31 (Page 995)

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20 (Page 867)

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.”

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM.....“My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone” by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Who’s the Leader?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 470.....“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives thy service find, in deeper reverence, praise.*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word, rise up and follow thee.*

*O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity, interpreted by love!*

*Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.*

*Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still small voice of calm!*

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison).....Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

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: The kingdom of God is near.

People: We are called to action.

Pastor: The kingdom of God unfolds throughout our lives.

People: We will take the word of grace into the world.

Pastor: Go, redeemed and blessed, for you are never alone.

People: We will spread the good news!

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 118.....“Lord of the Dance”

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth.*

Refrain: *Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.*

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they came with me and the Dance went on. [Refrain]*

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame, the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high; and they left me there on a cross to die. [Refrain]*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the Dance and I still go on. [Refrain]*

*They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. [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 Leigh Ann Shaw
from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

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-The altar flowers are in loving memory Ellen Louise Clauser by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clauser and family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Ellen Reichert and Kenneth H. Kreager by Christopher and Amy Clauser.

-Offering on Sunday, January 14, 2024: \$6,875.00

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

-The January Communion Offering is designated to Women in Crisis. The February Communion Offering is designated to the Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Offering.

-A Cabinet Meeting will be held TODAY 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 TODAY. The Annual Report will be available early in February prior to the **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 25.** 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.

-Gofundme to Help Mathias on His Spina Bifida Journey- Friends and family of Joe, Tamara, and baby Mathias- As a lot of you already know, Joe and Tamara recently received a serious diagnosis for their unborn baby. At a routine 20 week pregnancy ultrasound, their baby boy was diagnosed with Spina Bifida. Spina Bifida can come with a wide range of health issues and disabilities. Upon learning of the diagnosis, they were referred to CHOP to be reviewed as potential candidates for fetal surgery, in hopes to stop further damage to Mathias' spine and brain. Tamara went through 3 long days of testing on both Mathias' and herself, and found that she is eligible for this surgery. This surgery is Mathias' best chance at a normal life although is not without risks for mom and baby. If you would like to donate, you can visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-mathias-on-his-spina-bifida-journey>

-Meals Needed: Tamara and Joe Nagle and their children along with Joe's mother, Lucinda will be moving to the Philadelphia area Ronald McDonald House while they await the birth of Mathias. This will be over the course of a few months. Rae Ann Borger is organizing meals for Lucinda's husband, Tom and her mother, Marion. If you would be able to assist her with this effort, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to her or call 739-2311 for more information.

-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.

-Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour) -Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, February 11. 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.

-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 on **Monday, February 12** at 8:30am and **Friday, February 16** at 1pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-**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.

-**A traditional Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 14** at 7:00pm in person and live-streamed. The service will include the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Wednesday evening Lenten services will begin **February 21** and continue through **March 20** at 7pm. Please join us as we journey with Jesus to the cross.

-**Order forms are available for the Easter lilies.** The **first deadline is Sunday, February 18** and the **final deadline is Sunday, March 3**. Each lily is \$7, and orders and money can be given to Ardith Moyer, Verna Ebling or the church office. No standing orders please!

-**There will be a Consistory Meeting on Tuesday, February 20** at 7pm in the conference room.

-**We will be collecting monetary donations on Sunday, February 25 to be used toward the Church World Service Blankets+ Program.** Blanket offering envelopes will be available by the bulletin basket on the table in the narthex. Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S.

-**The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25 following worship.** In the event of worship cancellation, it will be held on Sunday, March 3. Annual reports will be available prior to the meeting.

-**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, *family and friends of Floyd Smith Jr., Joe & Tamara Nagle and unborn son Mathias Joseph, Gaige Guers, Jason Swick, Kelly Palerino*, Shirley German, Guy Fessler, Brian Moyer, Bev Kerschner, Rosanna Borgatta, Ron Mengel, Dick Clauser, 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 21

Sunday, January 21 *Deadline for the Annual Report

-Cabinet Meeting following Worship

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

Monday, January 22

6:00 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

Wednesday, January 24

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 28

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

I Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28