

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, February 4, 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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
The Sacrament of Holy Communion/ Scout Sunday

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Salem, Donaldson** 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.

(Communion note: This morning, as some of us are gathered together here at church while many are gathering with us virtually from their homes, we all are invited to the same table. Those present this morning are invited to pick up a bag of individually prepared elements from the table in the narthex, as we will not be distributing the elements during the service. Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF SCOUTS AND LEADERS OF TROOP & PACK 651

Jason Wood – Boy Scout Scoutmaster

Kevin Huneke – Cub Scout Cubmaster

PRESENTATION OF COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senior Patrol Leader: Brody Vaughn

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader: Mason Warg Leader

Color Guard: Mason Warg and Connor Palerino

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning?

People: The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: God sits above the circle of the earth and stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

People: Those who wait for the Lord shall mount up with wings like eagles.

Pastor: They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.

People: How good it is to sing praises to our God. Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 71.....“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near, join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;
sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining!
Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?*

*Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you:
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriends you.*

*Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again; gladly forever adore him.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Holy God, in our pursuit of safety and security, we often neglect to seek justice for the poor and to defend the downtrodden. Forgive us. Give us the heart of Jesus, that we may care for the sick and rescue the perishing. Give us the spirit of Christ, that we may spend time in prayer and keep your path before our feet. Give us the love of your Son, that we may be instruments of your peace. 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

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:.....Lectors, Brody Brand, Dominic Minchoff and Austin Klepsch

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:21-31 (Page 620)
Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (Page 997)
Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:29-39 (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“Lift Up Your Eyes” by Brad Dixon

SERMON.....“To Do My Duty To God”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN NO. 438.....“On Eagle's Wings”

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in His shadow for life,
say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"*

Refrain: *And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

*The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear,
under His wings your refuge, his faithfulness your shield. [Refrain]*

Refrain: *And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.*

*You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day;
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. [Refrain]*

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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.

PASTORAL PRAYER.....“A Scout is Reverent”

Pastor: God be with you.
People: And also with you.

SILENT PRAYER

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.....Ushers: Tanner Wood, Brody Vaughn, Noah Morgan, McKinley Hoover

(At this time the Regular and Communion Offerings will be received.)

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Communion Prayer:

The Seraphic Hymn

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory, Hosanna,
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna
in the highest!*

The congregation may be seated.

Words of Institution:

Prayer of Consecration:

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.

Breaking of the Bread:

Lifting of the Cup:

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

We thank you God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: The God who named the stars has named each of us. Remember that God is calling your name.

People: We will answer God's call to proclaim the gospel of love.

Pastor: Jesus Christ healed, cast out the demons, and made people whole. Jesus offers you wholeness.

People: Healed by Christ, even in our brokenness, we go to proclaim the gospel of love.

Pastor: The Holy Spirit anointed Mary, birthed the church, and is right now blowing you out this door!

People: Empowered by the Spirit, we go out to proclaim the gospel of love!

BENEDICTION

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

RETIRE THE COLORS

RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 562....."We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

*We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right,
a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light.*

Refrain: *For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright;
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.*

*We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord,
a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword,
and shatter the spear and sword. [Refrain]*

*We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigns above
has sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love,
and show us that God is love. [Refrain]*

*We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow has trod,
that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God,
might come to the truth of God. [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 the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers are in memory of June Rose Ohlinger by David, Pauline, Lauren and Trevor Smith.

-Offering on Sunday, January 28, 2024: \$6,863.00

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

-The February Communion Offering is designated to the Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Offering. The March Communion offering will support the Joe and Tamara Nagle Family (medical expenses).

-The 2023 End of Year statements are now available. Please see Kathy Kline or contact the church office.

-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, which can come with a wide range of health issues and disabilities. If you would like to donate, you can visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-mathias-on-his-spina-bifida-journey> or you may also give to the March communion offering.

-Meals Needed: Tamara and Joe Nagle and their children along with Joe's mother, Lucinda have moved 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.

-"Souper" Bowl Sunday: Next 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 food donation boxes and monetary donation pot!

-Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour) -Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service next 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!! Help is needed: 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.

-There will be a Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 7pm in room B1 (downstairs 2nd kitchen). Anyone interested in helping at VBS, which will be held June 17-21, is invited to attend. Please speak to Bill Reber for more information.

-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.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, March 5 at 7pm. The meeting will take place downstairs in room B1 (2nd kitchen). Please speak to Laura Carll, any Sunday School teachers, Pastor Ken or the church office for you information.

-On Sunday, March 10, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. OGHS, the refugee, relief and development offering of the UCC, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. Special envelopes will be placed on the bulletin table prior to that Sunday.

-In an effort to keep our records up to date, we are asking that if you have had a change to any of your information, would like to add a cell phone number or email address, or just want to be sure we have your most current info., 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.

-We are in need of altar prep volunteers. Everyone is welcome! It will be a rotation schedule on a weekly basis. You can sign up for one week or multiple weeks. Your assistance is needed to change the altar paraments, make sure altar flowers are changed and the oil candles are filled. “Training” will be provided! It’s a minimal commitment, but a great help in keeping our services running smoothly. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please speak to Kelly Palerino.

-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 Wink Carlson, Savannah Olsen, family and friends of Dennis Bittle, Diane Best, Kelly Palerino, Brett Neifert Jr., Harold Berkheiser, Kenneth Smith,* Ron Mengel, Joesph & Tamara Nagle and unborn son Mathias Joseph, Gaige Guers, Jason Swick, Shirley German, Guy Fessler, Brian Moyer, Dick Clauser, Cassie Wolfe, Marion Bartolet, Mabel Edwards

CANCER PATIENTS: Boone, Marie Bleu, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Rebecca Henderson, *Alicia Honeycutt,* 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, FEBRUARY 4

Sunday, February 4 *Scout Sunday

Monday, February 5

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

Wednesday, February 7

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 11 *Transfiguration * "Souper Bowl of Caring" Collection

9:15 AM -Sunday School

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

-Fellowship Time (aka Coffee Hour) following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

* * * *

The Scout Oath



On my honor, I will do my best.
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the scout law.
To help other people at all times.
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake and morally straight.