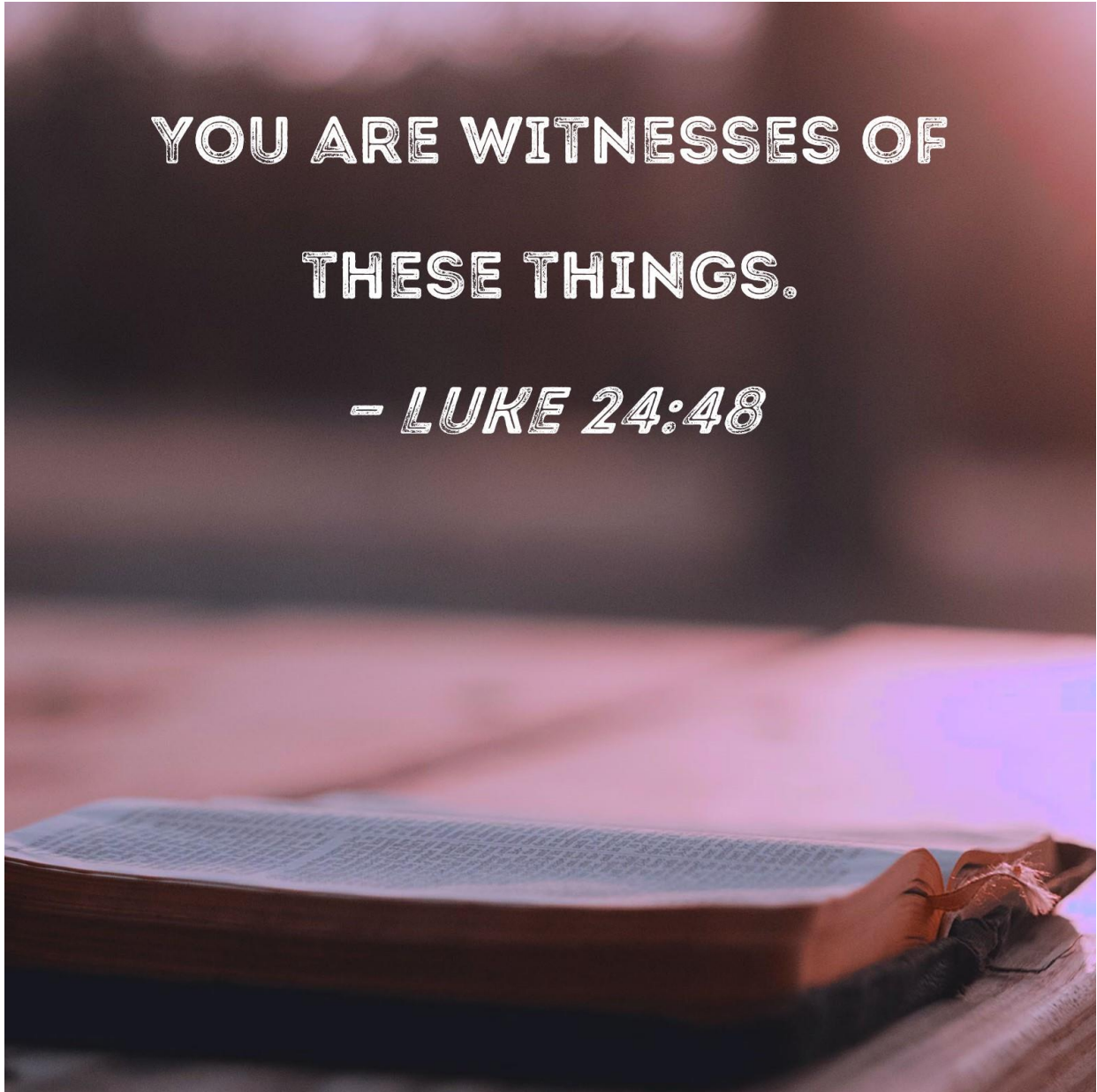


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, April 14, 2024

**YOU ARE WITNESSES OF
THESE THINGS.**

- LUKE 24:48



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

**Third Sunday of Easter
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, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar **the UCC Disaster Ministries.**

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: How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God’s love!

People: We are called to be Easter people!

Pastor: Darkness cannot claim us!

People: Fear cannot bind us!

Pastor: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed! AMEN!

OPENING HYMN NO. 310.....“Thine Is the Glory”

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.*

Refrain: *Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.*

*Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]*

*No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Answer us, O God, as we turn to you for mercy and strength. Listen to the yearnings of our hearts and the regrets of our lives. Forgive us for turning away. Comfort us in our distress and pour your grace into our lives. Redeem us with your love, that we might rise with Christ, newborn and vibrantly alive. Grant us the confidence to witness to your life-giving love. 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: Christ lived, died, and rose again for us, even while we were sinners.

People: **This is proof of God’s love for us.**

Pastor: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven! 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, Bonnie Reber

Book of Acts: Acts 3:12-19 (Page 949)

Psalm: Psalm 4 (Read Responsively)

Lector: Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

People: **How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?**

Lector: But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.

People: **When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.**

Lector: Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

People: **There are many who say, “O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!”**

Lector: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

People: **I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.**

Epistle: I John 3:1-7 (Page 1066)

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48 (Page 920)

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.....“The Wonder of His Love” by Jeff Lippencott

SERMON.....“Called to Be Witnesses”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 500.....“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

*Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone;
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

CELEBRATION OF APRIL BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Ella Sophia, daughter of Wade and Diona Sterner

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.

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: You are witnesses of God’s love.

People: We have had our hearts touched.

Pastor: You are witnesses of Christ’s life.

People: Christ is alive and has met us here.

Pastor: You are witnesses of the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: We are witnesses of life and love in the Spirit.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 557.....“Pass It On”

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.*

*What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.*

*I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found-
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top. I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.*

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

* * * *

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 Mary J Scifres from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. CCLI Copyright License Number 3253621 and CCLI Streaming License Number 20179084.

-The altar flowers and bulletins are in memory of Harry A. Edwards, Jr. by wife Mabel, daughter Nancy, and son-in-law Garry Wesner.

-Offering on Sunday, April 7, 2024: \$4,850.00

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

-The April Communion offering is designated to the Schuylkill Association Ministries. The May Communion offering is designated to Phoebe Ministries.

-Please note that the fresh altar flower sponsorship price has gone up in price from \$30 to \$35, effective April 1. The silk flowers are still \$12, and bulletin sponsorship is \$10.

-Join us for Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour) TODAY following worship. Enjoy conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments. We 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 Lori Moyer, the church office, Pastor Ken or sign the sheet on the bulletin table.

-A few tickets remain.....PLAY BALL! Spring is here and with it so comes America's great past time of baseball. **We have once again scheduled a group outing to see the Reading Fightin' Phils on Saturday, June 15th** against the Portland Sea Dogs. First pitch is at 6:45pm. Tickets are \$36.00 each and includes admission to the game, AYCE Buffet supper (starts at 5pm) and incredible fireworks to follow the game! A sign-up sheet is on table as you enter the sanctuary. Payment for tix can be given to Kelly in the church office or paid directly to Mike Fessler. There are 32 tickets reserved for us so tickets will be provided first come, first serve.

-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, April 15** at 8:30am and **this Friday, April 19** at 1pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-The Consistory will meet this Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00pm.

-You're invited to the Everybody's Birthday Party this Friday, April 19 from 6-9pm. It will be a pot-luck style, so you may bring a dinner choice and/or a dessert choice. Please sign your name and what you will be bringing on the sign-up sheet by the bulletin basket. We will have games & provide ice cream and drinks. We hope to see you there!!

-We have again designated the third Sunday of the month as **"Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday.** The upcoming dates are **next Sunday, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, and September 15.** We will have a Blessing of the Bikes on our first ride in April. Spread the word, invite your friend, and join us for some fun and fellowship. If you would like to be notified of other rides throughout the summer, please notify the church office to have your name added to the "Biker" email list!

-There will be a **Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on Tuesday, April 23** at 7pm in Room B1. Speak to Bill Reber for more information. Mark your calendar for VBS 2024...**Monday, June 17-Friday, June 21.** More information and registration material will be forthcoming. We invite all children ages 4 to 12 to join us for Scuba...Diving into friendship with God.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday, April 30 from 10am-12noon in the conference room. 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.

-Mark your calendars for a “Spring into VBS” youth event on Sunday, May 5 from 3-5pm.

- There will be a Schuylkill Association Meeting on Sunday, May 5 at St. Peter’s, Orwin. Registration begins at 2:30pm followed by worship and meeting at 3pm. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

-There will be Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, May 7 beginning at 7pm. All are welcome to attend. Please speak to the Board of Christian Education Chairperson, Laura Carll for more information.

-There will be a **Blood Drive hosted by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches on Thursday, May 9** from 1-6pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven.

-Sunday, May 12 is Youth Sunday. Come out and support our Confirmation students as they lead worship for us that day.

-On Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 12, we will receive our annual offering for Phoebe Ministries. This ministry provides long-term care & programs for seniors.

-It's soon mowing season! **Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn-** a zero turn mower is provided. A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex. Please contact the church office for more information.

-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, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to her or call 739-2311 for more information.

-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.

-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 Robert Cody, family and friends of Jerry Frank, Stacy Strause*, Carol Fessler, Sharon Koszyk, Amy Crouse, Erinn Carll, Dave Heim, Ernie Jones, Ron Mengel, Tom Toomey, Guy Fessler, Harold Berkheiser, Joseph & Tamara Nagle and unborn son Mathias Joseph, Shirley German, Dick Clauser, Cassie Wolfe, Marion Bartolet, Mabel Edwards

CANCER PATIENTS: Wayne Alward, Boone, Marie Bleu, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperna, Joan Krause, *Lori Krug*, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Barry Webber, Terri Willard

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Sunday, April 14

-Fellowship hour (coffee hour) following worship

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

Monday, April 15

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

Tuesday, April 16

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, April 17

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 19

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

5:00 PM -Wedding Rehearsal (Clauser & Nicholas)

6:00 PM -Everybody's Birthday Party/ Potluck dinner

Saturday, April 20

12:30-3:30 PM -Clauser & Nicholas Wedding

Sunday, April 21

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship (ride your motorcycle to church Sunday)

-Group motorcycle ride following worship

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

7:00 PM -Boy Scout Committee Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

I John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18