

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. John’s, 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: Awaken from your slumber, and bring your fears and anxieties into the presence of the Lord our God.

People: We hear the call of our Shepherd, and allow His voice to lead from selfish ambition to the feast of grace.

Pastor: May the light of Christ shine into the hidden darkness of our lives and restore us for the service of the Lord.

People: Come let us worship God. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 96.....“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad the honors of your name.*

*Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.*

*He breaks the power of cancelled sin, he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean, his blood availed for me.*

*To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Good Shepherd, forgive us when we take your care for granted. In the midst of your many blessings, we complain of not having enough. In the presence of danger, we fail to trust your abiding love. When you set a table before us, we turn aside from you. Call us back into your care and help us trust your caring presence, that our actions may proclaim your truth. 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: The Spirit abides in each of us—

People: Loving us, loving through us, forgiving us, and forgiving through us.

Pastor: We are loved and forgiven, even as we love and forgive.

All: Thanks be to God!

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

Book of Acts: Acts 4:5-12 (Page 950)

Psalm: Psalm 23, A Psalm of David. (KJV) **(Read in unison)**

All: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Epistle: 1 John 3:16-24 (Page 1066)

Gospel: John 10:11-18 (Page 933)

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.....“Shepherd Your Flock” by Nan and Dennis Allen

SERMON.....“In Name Only”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 440.....“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

*Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.*

*We are thine, do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.*

*Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.*

*Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still;
blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.*

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: Go now to love, even when love involves risk.

People: We go now to love, as God loves us.

Pastor: Go now to care, even when caring is hard.

People: We go now to care, as God cares for us.

Pastor: Go now to love, in truth and in action.

People: By this we are known as children of God.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 499.....“He Leadeth Me”

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

Refrain: *He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.*

*Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whate'er my lot may be, since 'tis my God who leadeth me. [Refrain]*

*And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace, the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. [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 Elements by Mary Petrina Boyd and the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

Call to Worship by: ~ written by Rev MaryAnn Rennie, and posted on the

Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>

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-The altar flowers are in honor of Linsey Clauser and Dr. Dan Nicholas' wedding yesterday by Uncle Dick, Aunt Linda, Christopher and Amy.

-The bulletins are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Reber by the family.

-Offering on Sunday, April 14, 2024: \$2,019.00
-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.

-There will be a motorcycle ride with the blessing of the bikes following worship today. We have again designated the third Sunday of the month as **“Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday- May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, and September 15.** 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!

-Order forms are available on the bulletin table for the red geranium sale. The order deadline is Sunday, May 5, and will be available to pick up on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. The cost is \$6 each. Please speak to Ardith Moyer or the church office if you have any questions.

-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.

-There will be a **Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting this 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.

- All kids are welcome to join our extended Vacation Bible School as we celebrate the earth God created for us and get ready to dive into a new Vacation Bible School theme! **We will meet at the church on Sunday, May 5** from 3:00-5:00pm. **An RSVP to the church office or to Laura Carll at (484)269-4405 by this Friday, April 26** is appreciated but not mandatory. Can't wait to see everyone there!

-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.

-ST PAUL’S UCC YOU’VE BEEN CHALLENGED AGAIN! You all did such an amazing job at Thanksgiving sharing your blessings by donating approximately 1200 food items to our local food pantry. We are personally challenging our congregation **AGAIN** to bless our community by donating 1100 items to the local food pantry to meet summer needs. Our local pantries continue to be in dire need. Families across our county continue to struggle each month to meet their basic needs. The summer provides additional challenges to families who now have kids home and are no longer receiving those free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches at school. On top of that, everyone gets busy during the summer, and giving to the food pantry hits year-long lows. We are asking for at least 31 of our households to donate 31 food items in 31 days!! We will then provide the last 139 items to reach our goal of 1100 items. A list of suggested items can be picked up in the Narthex of the church. These items can be used as a guide to help supply ingredients to provide three healthy meals as well as a treat! We understand every household budget is different. So do not feel obligated to conform to this list. **ANY 31 ITEMS WILL MAKE A HUGE IMPACT! Collection will take place May 1st-31st.** You may leave your donation at the back of the sanctuary or contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 or by email at bkochguers@comcast.net to arrange for one of the boys to pick up your donation at your home. **LET'S DO THIS ST PAUL'S!!!! TOGETHER** we can provide families with **SUMMER BLESSINGS!!!**

-There will be a Schuylkill Association Meeting on Sunday, May 5 at St. Peter's (Orwin), Tower City. 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.

-ECLIPSE GLASSES WANTED: We will be collecting your unwanted Eclipse Glasses to donate to the nonprofit organizations Astronomers without Borders and Eclipse Glasses USA. These two organizations will inspect the glasses for safety then they will be shipped to Latin America for schools and communities to be able to safely view the August 2024 Eclipse in their area. A box for the glasses will be labeled and located in the Narthex of the Church for you to drop off any glasses you may have. **Donations will be accepted through Sunday, May 12th.** If you can't get your glasses to church please contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 and she will happily arrange for a pick up!

-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.

-Join us for Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour) on Sunday, May 12 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.

-The Sunday School will be holding a sandwich sale on Saturday, May 18 to support VBS 2024. Order forms will be included in the newsletter and will become available on the table in the narthex. Sandwiches are \$6 each and **orders are due by May 12.** Thank you for your support!

-The Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry is in great need and accepts all non-perishable food items and 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, May 13** at 8:30am **and Friday, May 17** at 1pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-We will once again have a St Paul's UCC Church Golf Outing at Hidden Valley Golf Course on Monday, June 17 beginning at 10am (individual tee times assigned approximately 1 week before event). The cost is: \$20 for Juniors 15 or under; \$30 for 60+; \$39 for adults 16-59. The event is coordinated by Gavin, Gaige, and Chase Guers. **The deadline to sign up is May 15.** Come and join us for a morning of fun, fellowship, and GOLF! Yes, it's a weekday morning, but what a better way to start your work week than by extending your weekend and golfing with friends? Whether you are a seasoned pro, a newbie, 9 years old, or 90 years young, there's fun for all on the golf course! For those who would like, we will begin the day with breakfast at the Friedensburg Country Restaurant at 8:00 am. Please sign up on the signup sheet in the Narthex of the church or email Gavin Guers at gguers52@comcast.net.

-It's 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.

-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!! We are still looking for some additional people to help run our new sound and video equipment 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, *Lori Edwards, Dave Heim, Mathias Joseph Nagle, son of Joe and Tamara Nagle*, Stacy Strause, Carol Fessler, Sharon Koszyk, Amy Crouse, Erinn Carll, Ernie Jones, Ron Mengel, Tom Toomey, Guy Fessler, Harold Berkheiser, 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 21

Sunday, April 21

-Group motorcycle ride following worship

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Meetings/ 7:00 PM -Boy Scout Committee Meeting

Monday, April 22

6:00 & 7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

Tuesday, April 23

7:00 PM -VBS Planning Meeting

Wednesday, April 24

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 25

6:00 PM -Confirmation Class

Sunday, April 28

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

I John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8