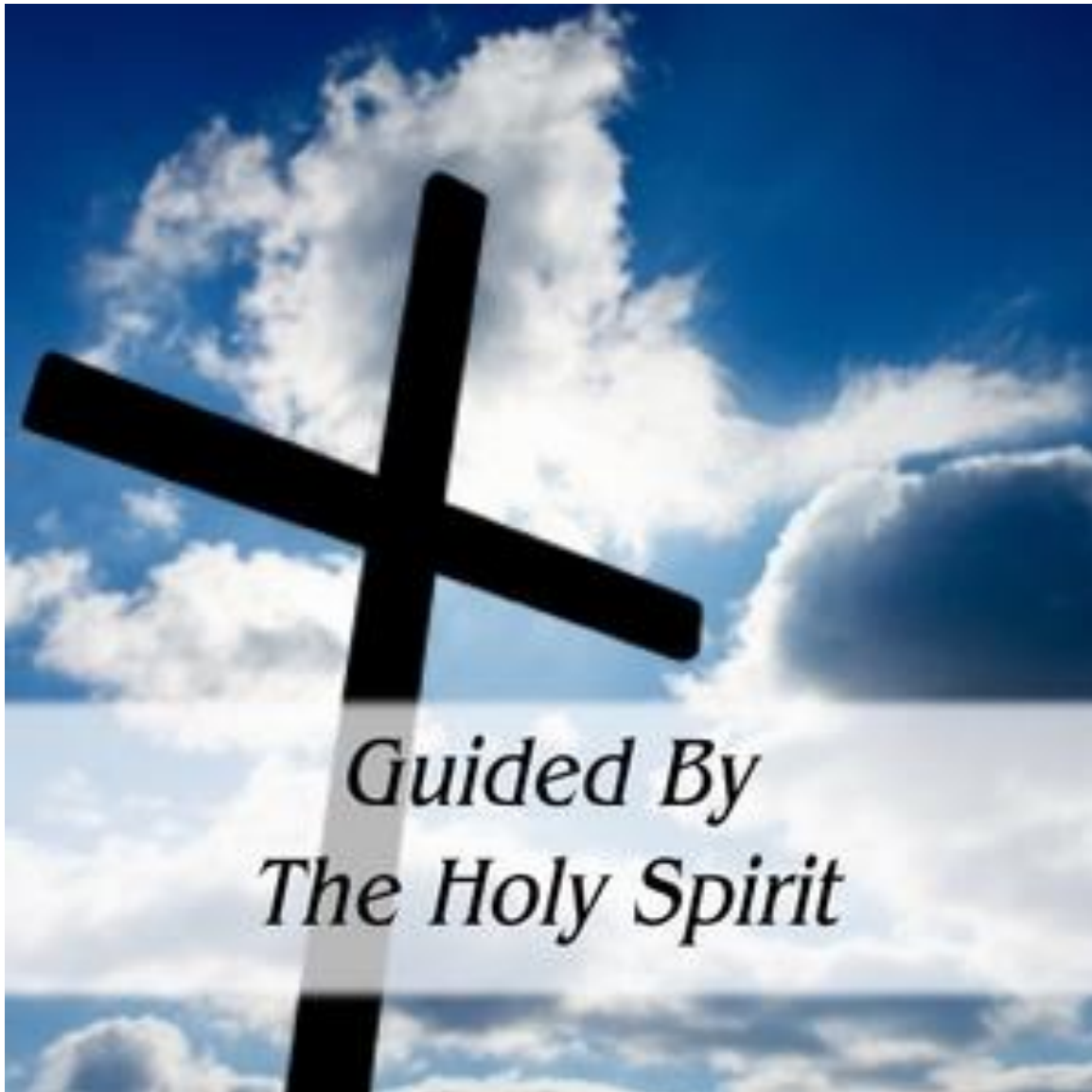


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday, April 28, 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](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)

**Livestream:** [www.facebook.com/summerhillucc](http://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

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 National Staff.**

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: Come to Christ, the true vine, and bear much fruit.

**People: We have come to abide in the vine, and to bear the fruit of salvation.**

Pastor: Come to love one another, for love is of God.

**People: We have come to the household of love, for God is love.**

Pastor: Come to set aside your fears, for perfect love drives out fear.

**People: We have come to love one another, as God has loved us.**

Pastor: Come! All are welcome here. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 358.....“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)**

**Speak truth to our hearts, O God. Speak love to our lives, that we may remain in your love and share your love joyously with others. Speak grace to our souls, that we may rest in your grace and forgive**

**others as we have been forgiven. Speak mercy to our world, that all the world may know your love and find redemption in your grace. In hope and trust, we pray. 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’s promises are sure.

**People: The promises of forgiveness, grace, and love are true.**

Pastor: In Christ’s love and grace, we are forgiven and made new. 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

Book of Acts: Acts 8:26-40 (Page 955)

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31 **(Read responsively)**

Lector: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**People: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!**

Lector: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**People: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

Lector: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**People: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,**

Lector: and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Epistle Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21 (Page 1067)

Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8 (Page 939)

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 Jesus, I Love Thee” by Tom Fettke

SERMON.....“Guided by The Spirit”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**  
*The congregation may remain seated.*

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 476.....“I Need Thee Every Hour”

*I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;  
no tender voice like thine can peace afford.*

**Refrain:** *I need thee, O I need thee; every hour I need thee!  
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.*

*I need thee every hour, stay thou near by;  
temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. [Refrain]*

*I need thee every hour, in joy or pain;  
come quickly, and abide, or life is vain. [Refrain]*

*I need thee every hour, teach me thy will,  
and thy rich promises in me fulfill. [Refrain]*

***The congregation may stand.***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)..United Church of Christ Statement of Faith– adapted by Robert V. Moss

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother,  
and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being,  
creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.**

**God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness  
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,**

**God has come to us and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.**

**God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. 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: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

**People: We will be born of love each day of our lives.**

Pastor: Beloved, let us abide in Christ’s love, for he is the vine and we are the branches.

**People: We will grow as Christ’s disciples and bear fruit for a world in need.**

Pastor: Beloved, let us care for one another, for the Spirit helps us abide in God’s peace.

**People: We will glorify God in the lives we lead.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 595.....“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

*We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.  
We are one in the Spirit; We are one in the Lord.  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will walk with each other; We will walk hand in hand.  
We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand.  
And together we’ll spread the news that God is in the land.  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

*We will work with each other; we will work side by side.  
We will work with each other; we will work side by side.  
And we’ll guard each one’s dignity, and save each one’s pride.  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

*All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.  
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.  
Yes they’ll know we are Christians by our love.*

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

\* \* \* \* \*

*Portions of today's worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC's Book of Worship, Worship Elements by B. J. Beu and 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 loving memory of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Pauline Arndt by Robin, Chuck, CJ, Kayla, Charlee, Kyla and Kaycee Ferguson, and Sarah, Michael, Brantley, Damien, Gatlin and Emma Wolfe.

-Offering on Sunday, April 21, 2024: \$2,088.00

-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.**

**-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this 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 You Have 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 you 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](mailto:bkochguers@comcast.net) to arrange for one of the boys to pick up your donation at your home. Together we can provide families with summer blessings!!

**-Order forms are available on the bulletin table and in the May Newsletter for the red geranium sale. The order deadline is next 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.

**-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 next Sunday, May 5** from 3:00-5:00pm. **An RSVP to the church office or to Laura Carll at (484)269-4405** is appreciated but not mandatory. Can't wait to see everyone there!

**-There will be a Schuylkill Association Meeting next 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.

**-Order forms are available** on the bulletin table and in the May Newsletter for **the Sunday School sandwich sale on Saturday, May 18** to support VBS 2024. Sandwiches are \$6 each and **orders are due by May 12**. Thank you for your support!

**-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 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. 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 sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the church or email Gavin Guers at [gguers52@comcast.net](mailto:gguers52@comcast.net).

**-A few tickets remain for the 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.

-We have again designated the third Sunday of the month as "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday. The upcoming dates are **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!

**-WELCOME TO SCUBA DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD!** Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Paul's June 17-21. All children ages 4-12 (grade 6) are welcome and invited to attend. Please save the date and share with all your relatives, friends and neighbors. A registration form is included with this newsletter. Forms

can be submitted to the church office or to [wareber@comcast.net](mailto:wareber@comcast.net). More information will follow via church newsletter, bulletins, email and Members of St. Paul's Facebook. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

**-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](mailto: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, *Dick Clauser, family and friends of Donna Kratz, family and friends of Tom Corondi, Mary Ella Hoy, 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, 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 28**

**Sunday, April 28**

**Tuesday, April 30**

10:00 AM -Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Wednesday, May 1**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, May 5 \*Deadline for the red geranium sale orders**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

3:00 PM -Spring into VBS Event (fellowship hall)/ Sch. Association Meeting at St. Peter’s Orwin, Tower City

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Den Meetings

### **\*Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

I John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17