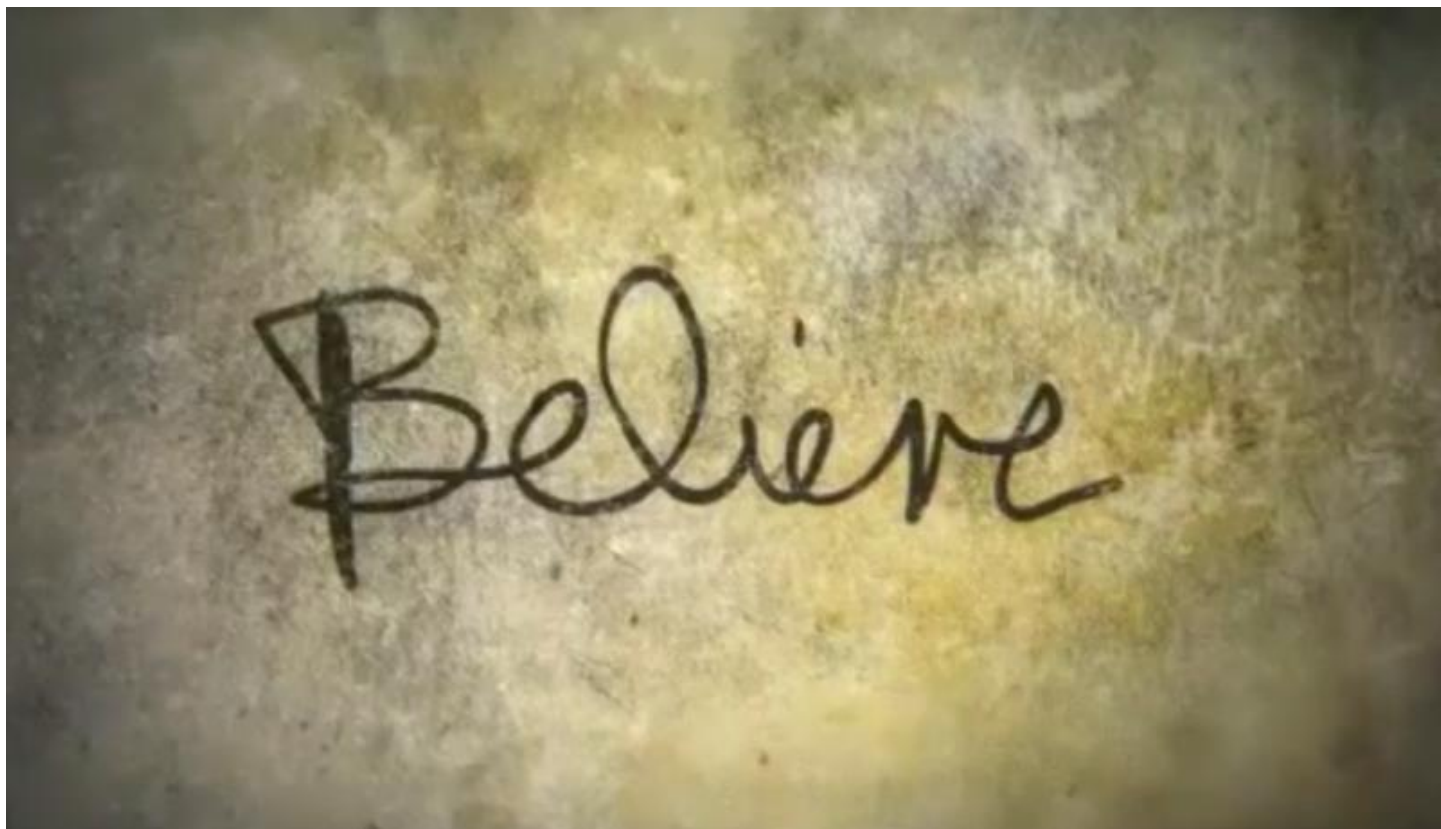


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, April 7, 2024**



**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)

**Second Sunday of Easter  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

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, St. Clair** 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.)*

INVOCATION

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

PRELUDE

*The congregation may stand.*

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: It is good for God’s people to gather together in unity.

**People: We are here at the invitation of God.**

Pastor: In this place, God’s love and grace flow into our lives.

**People: In this place, God’s blessings abound.**

Pastor: Praise be to God!

**People: Praise be to God! Amen!**

OPENING HYMN NO. 287.....“Lift High the Cross”

***Refrain:** Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

*Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **[Refrain]***

*All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. **[Refrain]***

*O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. **[Refrain]***

*So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory. **[Refrain]***

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of grace and mercy, we want to continue singing the alleluias of Easter, but there are days we just don't feel like singing. Sometimes we lock ourselves away, fearful of what has happened or what the day may bring. Sometimes we allow our doubts to overwhelm our faith. Sometimes we forget about the needs of our neighbors because we are so focused on ourselves. Forgive us. Draw us back to you and to one another. Help us walk in your love and light, that others may see in us the loving presence of the risen Christ. 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: When we walk in the light of Christ, we have fellowship with one another.

People: **When we confess our sins, the One who is faithful and just forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: For in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has showered mercy upon the entire world. 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, Brook Koch-Guers

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 4:32-35 (Page 951)

Psalm: Psalm 133 (Read Responsively)

Lector: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,**

Lector: on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

People: **It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.**

Lector: For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Epistle Lesson: I John 1:1-2:2 (Page 1065)

Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31 (Page 945)

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.....“Are You Washed in the Blood” by Keith Wilbanks

SERMON.....“Resurrection Reality”

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

HYMN NO. 414.....“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

*I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy this blest assurance gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living Head!*

*He lives triumphant from the grave; he lives eternally to save;  
he lives exalted, throned above; he lives to rule his church in love.*

*He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to plead for me above;  
he lives my hungry soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.*

*He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly friend; he lives and loves me to the end;  
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King!*

*He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Saviour, still the same;  
what joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!*

*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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

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

*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:

Pastor: We give thanks to God the Father that our Savior, Jesus Christ.....Therefore we proclaim our faith as signed and sealed in this sacrament:

**People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

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:

Pastor: The bread that we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**People: We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.**

Lifting of the Cup:

Pastor: The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**People: The cup that we drink is our participation in the blood of Christ.**

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

*The congregation may stand.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

### GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Lord of mercy, be with us as we go from this place today.

**People: Fill our lives with your love.**

Pastor: Help us to bring the good news of hope and peace wherever we go.

**People: Let us truly be people of the Resurrection - the Easter people!**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 443.....“Trust and Obey”

*When we walk with the Lord in the light of his Word, what a glory he sheds on our way!  
While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.*

***Refrain:*** *Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

*Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he will richly repay;  
not a grief nor a loss, not a frown nor a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]*

*But we never can prove the delights of his love until all on the altar we lay;  
for the favor he shows and the joy he bestows are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]*

*Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way;  
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go-- never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]*

## 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, Worship Elements by Karin Ellis and the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. Portions reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources. 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 are in memory of Beatrice Spotts and Lurda Reber by the family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Beatrice Spotts and Lurda Reber by the grandchildren.

-Offering on Sunday, March 31, 2024: \$3,865.00 (all serviced combined)

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

**-The April Communion offering is designated to the Schuylkill Association 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) next Sunday, April 14 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 the church office/ speak to 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/ 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 **Monday, April 15** at 8:30am and **Friday, April 19** at 1pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

**-The next Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00pm.**

**-Your invited to the Everybody's Birthday Party on 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!!

-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.

-**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.

-It's soon mowing season! **Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn-** a zero turn mower is provided. A sign up 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](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, *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, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, *Barry Webber*, Terri Willard

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

**Sunday, April 7**

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

**Monday, April 8**

10:30 AM -Pastor Ken to lead chapel service at Luther Ridge

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

**Wednesday, April 10**

5:30 PM -Confirmation Class

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, April 14**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

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

-Fellowship hour following worship

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

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

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

I John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48