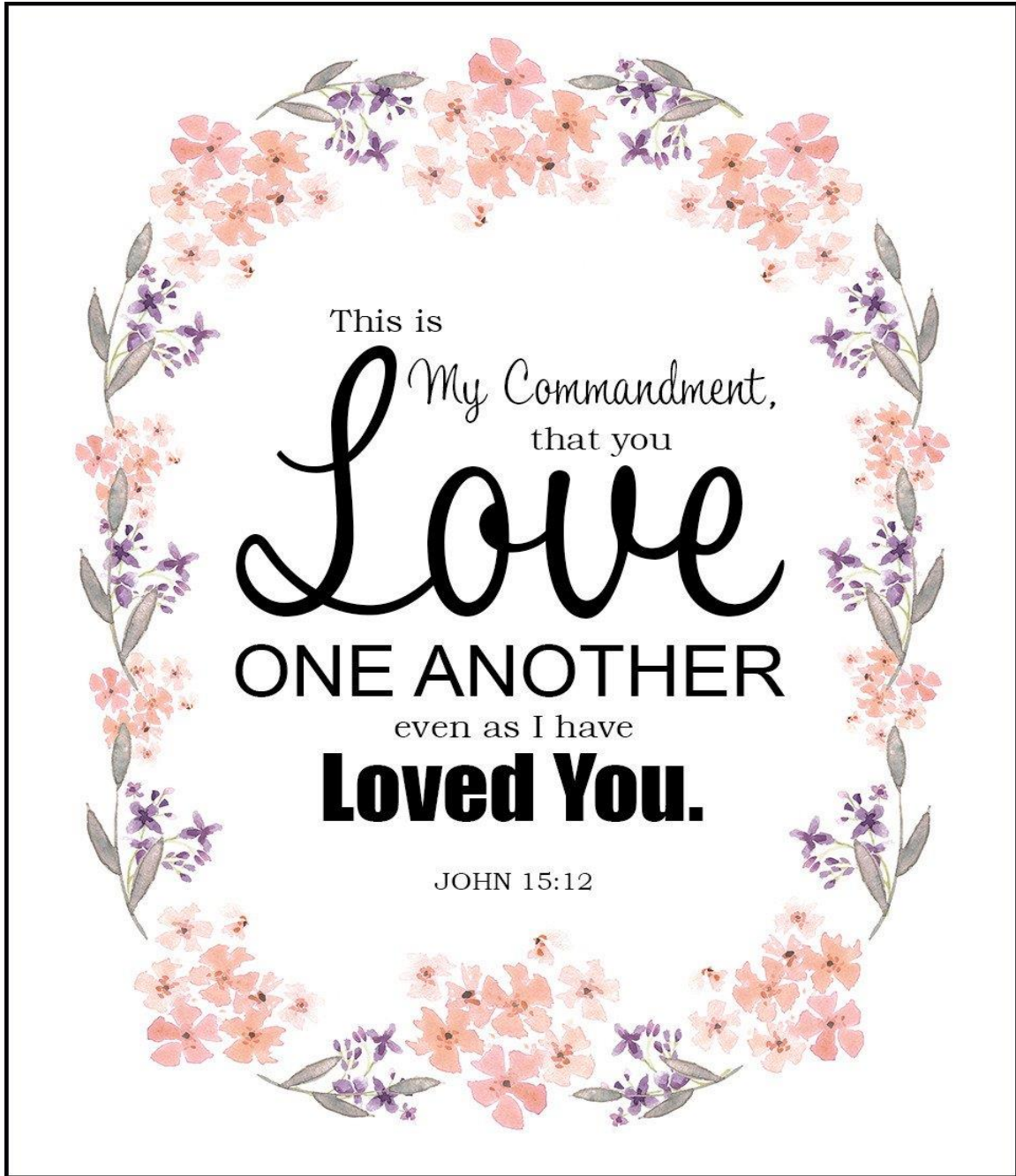


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, May 5, 2024**



**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)

**Sixth 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, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, the **Schuylkill Association Spring Meeting.**

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: Sing to our God a new song,

**People: for God has done wondrous things.**

Pastor: The Holy One's might is not found in destruction,

**People: but in steadfast love and constant faithfulness.**

Pastor: These gifts are not for us alone,

**People: they are for one and all.**

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**People: Break forth into songs of praise.**

Pastor: Let all creation praise the Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 706....."I Come with Joy"

*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.*

*As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**O God, you are bigger than the world, bigger than our fears, bigger even than our folly. We are grateful for the immensity of your love, even when it sometimes scares us. When the immensity of your love frightens us, we long to return to you in hope. Forgive us when we want to make you smaller—small enough that we can hold you—help us see beyond our narrow vision. Remind us again, O God, that you will always find and hold us, for your heart is big enough to hold the whole world, including us. Teach us once more that we will always grow when we love others as we love you. 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 God of mercy speaks every language.  
**People: When we open our ears, we hear and receive God’s grace.**  
Pastor: Whenever we are afraid or overwhelmed, we have only to remember these truths.  
**People: God’s love is the greatest power of all. God’s mercy is there for every one of us.**  
Pastor: God’s grace is present every moment of our lives, 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, Brook Koch-Guers

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 10:44-48 (Page 958)  
Psalm: Psalm 98 (Read Responsively)

Lector: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**People: The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

Lector: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Lector: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

Lector: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**People: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy**

Lector: at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Epistle Lesson: I John 5:1-6 (Page 1067)  
Gospel Lesson: John 15:9-17 (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.....“Jesus, Savior, Precious Friend” by Marty Parks

SERMON.....“The Power of Love”

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

HYMN NO. 473.....“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

*What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!*

*Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!*

*Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge-- take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.*

*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: Come to the table of grace, for Christ is the vine, and we are the branches.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Pastor: Come to the table of love, for whoever does not love, does not know God.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Pastor: Come to the table of blessing, for Christ is here to abide in us, as we abide in him.

**People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

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:

Pastor: Creator God, be present with your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, that we and your entire church may be called out and made whole through this meal. Grant that, being joined together in Jesus Christ, we may all remain faithful in love and hope until we joyfully feast with Christ at the coming of your kingdom.

**People: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you.**

Pastor: We ask these things in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

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):

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and sustained us in hope every day of our lives. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. Renew us day by day with the gift of your Spirit, so that we may give ourselves completely to your service and walk with joy in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

**GOING WITH THE WORD**

**COMMISSION**

Pastor: Jesus speaks again today:

**People: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”**

Pastor: Go in joy and faithfulness, knowing that you, the chosen friends of Jesus, abide in Jesus’ love.

**People: We will bear the gift of this love to the world.**

**BENEDICTION**

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 603.....“In Christ There Is No East or West”

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be!  
Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north;  
all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.*

**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 Kirsten Linford 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 honor of Justin Nagle’s Birthday (May 16), Elias Nagle’s Birthday (May 16), Mathias Nagle’s Birthday (April 10), Lucinda Nagle’s Birthday (April 25) and Josh and Tina Nagle’s Wedding Anniversary (May 29).

-Offering on Sunday, April 28, 2024: \$2,705.00  
-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2024: \$3,243.09

**-The May Communion offering is designated to Phoebe Ministries. The June Communion offering is designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries.**

**-Order forms are available on the bulletin table for the red geranium sale. The order deadline is TODAY, and flowers 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 TODAY** as we celebrate the earth God created for us and get ready to dive into a new Vacation Bible School theme! **We will meet** from 3:00-5:00pm in the church fellowship hall. Can’t wait to see you there!

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

**-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: 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!!

**-There will be Board of Christian Education Meeting this 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 this 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 next Sunday, May 12.** Thank you for your support!

**-We are 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 basket for the glasses is located in the narthex of the church for you to drop off any glasses you may have. **Donations will be accepted through next 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!

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

**-Next Sunday, May 12 (Mother's Day), we will receive our annual offering for Phoebe Ministries.** This ministry provides long-term care & programs for seniors. Special envelopes are available on the bulletin table in the narthex.

**-Join us for Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour) next 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 also on Friday, May 17** 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 be Tuesday, May 14.** 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 or Nancy Dewald.

**-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 8:00am. Please sign up on the signup 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 15** 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**. 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. Registration forms are on the bulletin table and also included in the May 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, 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, MAY 5**

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

3:00 PM -Spring into VBS Event (fellowship hall)

-Schuylkill Association Spring Meeting at St. Peter's Orwin, Tower City

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Den Meetings

**Monday, May 6**

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

**Tuesday, May 7**

7:00 PM -Board of Christian Education Meeting

**Wednesday, May 8**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, May 9 \*Ascension Day**

1:00-6:00 PM -Council of Churches Blood Drive at Jerusalem Lutheran

6:00 PM -Confirmation Class

**Sunday, May 12 \*Mother's Day**

**\*Deadline for Sandwich Sale orders and Eclipse glasses collection**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries, Youth Sunday and Pheobe offering

-Fellowship Hour following worship

5:30 PM -Cub Scout Den Meetings

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

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

I John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

# 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. Forms can be submitted to the church office or to [wareber@comcast.net](mailto:wareber@comcast.net).

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

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## St. Paul's UCC (Summer Hill) VBS Registration Form (One per child) June 17-21 6:00 to 8:30 Closing Program June 21

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone number to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Best email address to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you give your permission to allow any pictures that may contain your child to be posted on social media? \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_ at phone number: \_\_\_\_\_