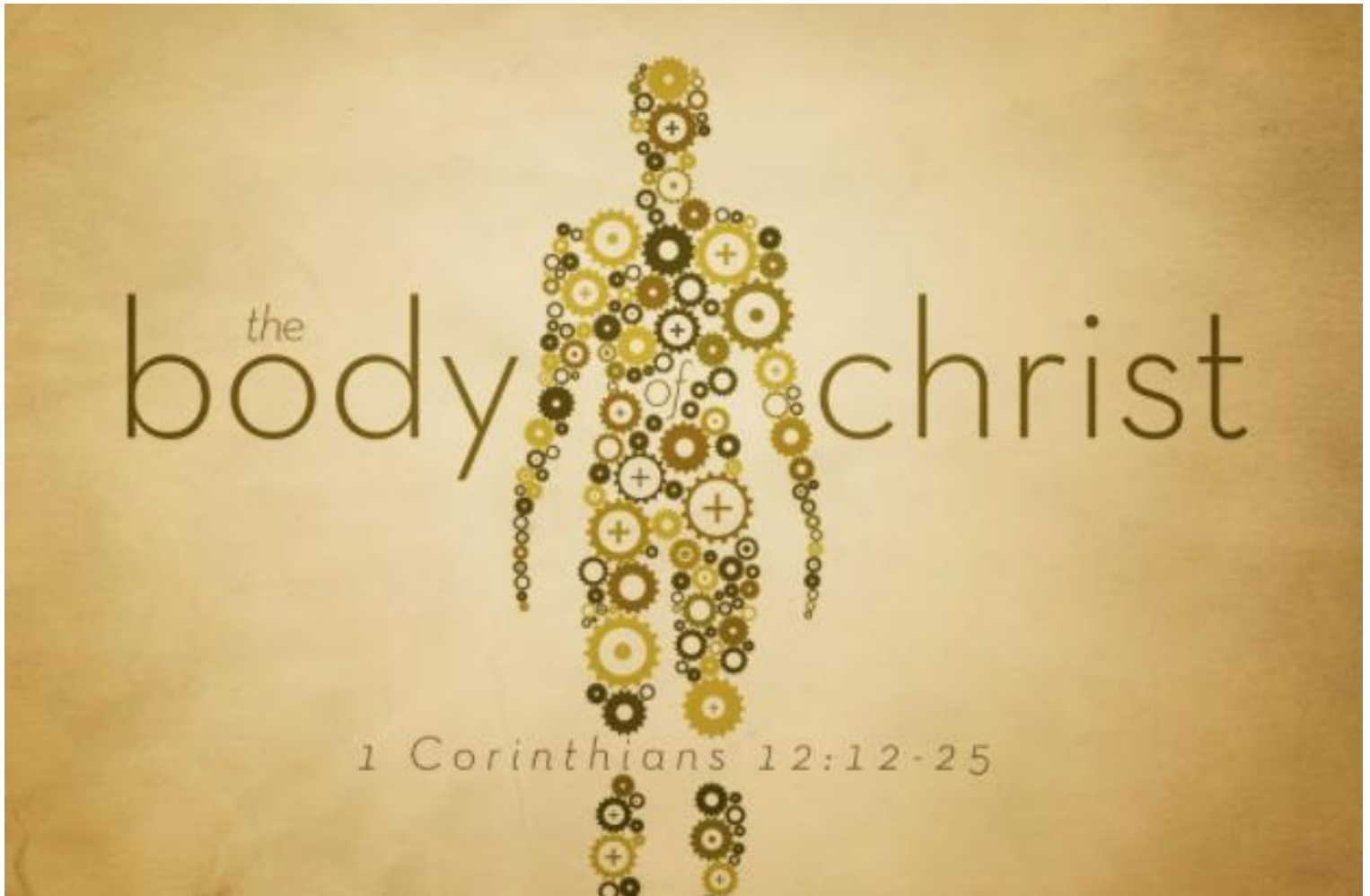


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, January 26, 2025**



**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](https://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

1782  
Sunday, January 26, 2025

243 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2025  
10:30am

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

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 Justice and Witness 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: Day pours forth speech and night declares knowledge.

**People: What voices speak without words or speech?**

Pastor: The heavens are telling the glory of God.

**People: We listen but do not understand.**

Pastor: The Law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

**People: Who will teach us, that our hearts may rejoice?**

Pastor: Pray in the Spirit and you will perceive. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 11.....“Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Merciful God, as we seek to know your ways, may we be more ready to receive the gifts of others than to trumpet the gifts we have received. Lay your call to Christian unity on our hearts, as we listen to your precepts and seek to live them each day. As the heavens proclaim your praise, and the day and the night reveal your truth, open our hearts to those who need our care. 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 of God is upon us.

**People: God has called us to bring good news and liberation to the poor, to the marginalized, and to all who are in need anywhere.**

Pastor: God's joy is our strength.

**People: Through God we can do all things.**

Pastor: God's Spirit surrounds us with forgiveness and love. 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, Mike Fessler

Old Testament: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 (Page 420)

Psalm: Psalm 19 (Read responsively)

Lector: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

Lector: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**People: yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

Lector: which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**People: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**

Lector: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

**People: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

Lector: the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**People: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Lector: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**People: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**

Lector: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (Page 999)

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21 (Page 892)

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.....“One” by Nan and Dennis Allen

### SERMON.....“Beyond Understanding”

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*The congregation may remain seated.*

*Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.*

### HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 96.....“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

*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: In one Spirit, we perceive the glory of God proclaimed in the heavens above.

**People: In one faith, we have been nurtured through the precepts of the living Lord.**

Pastor: Go with the blessing of God, that all might be one.

**People: We go forth as one body, one spirit, one witness to the promises of our God.**

## BENEDICTION

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

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

## 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 B. J. Beu from the 2025 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in loving memory of John Tassone and Ellen Harig by Mary Jane & Tom Toomey, and Lucille Faust and Family.

-The additional flower arrangement is in honor of Mathias Nagle's fetal surgery anniversary. On January 19, 2024, our "twice-born" baby was exposed to the world briefly while doctors operated on his spine. The daisy and yellow ribbon are symbols for spina bifida awareness.

-Offering on Sunday, January 19, 2025: \$ (Worship cancelled due to snow)

-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2025: \$3,285.91

**-The January 2025 Communion Offering is designated to Women in Crisis. The Communion offering for February 2025 will support Church World Services Blanket Drive.**

**-A Cabinet Meeting will be held following worship TODAY.** It will be led by Mike Fessler to discuss a focus and direction for church activities in 2025. All leaders and any church member interested in providing suggestions and input on this topic are encouraged to attend.

**-Boy Scout Sunday will be celebrated next Sunday, February 2.** Members of the Cub Scout Pack 651 and Boy Scout Troop 651 will participate in Worship at 10:30am.

**-There will be a Tech Team Demo after church next Sunday, February 2** for anyone interested in helping stream the worship services and run the tech equipment during church services. The demo will last approximately 30 minutes. Please see Craig Borger for more information.

**-On February 9, we will honor couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries in 2025.** If you are married 50 years this year, or you know of a couple in the church who is, please contact Kelly at the church office.

**-Join us for fellowship time- conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, February 9, 2025.** We will 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. We have been having a wonderful response to our monthly fellowship times! **Donations of treats (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins, etc.) are welcome and very much appreciated.** Please speak to Lori Moyer if you would like to help in any way.

**-“Souper Bowl of Caring”, Sunday, February 9.** Please give \$1 and/or one food item to support the year-round ministry of the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry. Committed volunteers from Council churches gather every Monday morning to sort food at the Food Pantry, located in the basement of the Walk In Art Center, donating an average of 180 hours of volunteer time each month. On the Monday before the third Friday, they assemble about 200 boxes of food, each box containing 25-30 food items, to give out that Friday from noon to 3 PM. 4500-6000 items of food are needed for each month. In 2024, 1900 boxes were given to our neighbors in the Schuylkill Haven Area. **Look for the specially marked donation boxes and donation pots when you come to church on “Souper Bowl Sunday”!**

**-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet the second Tuesday of each month** from 10am-12noon in the conference room. **The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 11.** If you are interested in knitting and/or crocheting, we can hook you up! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

**-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 Monday, February 17, 2025 at 8:30am and Friday, February 21, 2025 at 12pm.** Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

**-We will be collecting monetary donations on Sunday, February 23 to be used toward the Church World Service Blankets+ Program.** Blanket offering envelopes will be available by the bulletin basket on the table in the narthex.

**-The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23 following worship.** In the event of worship cancellation, it will be held on **Sunday, March 2.** Annual reports will be available prior to the meeting.

**-Summer Hill Youth Group wants you to ROLL WITH US! Join us on Saturday, March 1, 2025,** from 12:30 to 3:30 PM at the Roller Roost Sports Arena for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Sunday School will pick a raffle winner and cover the cost of admission and skate rentals for children 18 and under. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Laura Carll with any questions.

**-If you are CPR/AED certified, please contact the church office.** We are updating our church certification list for our AED machine on site here at the church.

**-Sunday School Raffle: Every week that our youth participate in Sunday School, they will get a raffle ticket that will be entered into a drawing for a prize.** Drawings will then happen quarterly at the Youth Group Events. (winners do not need to be present) Please speak to Laura Carll (484-269-4405) for more information.

-Following many natural disasters, **Clean-Up Buckets** provide those affected with the essentials to begin getting their lives back in order. The Schuylkill Association, working with the UCC Disaster Ministries, helps provide these kits through Church World Services anywhere they are needed, to include right here in Schuylkill County. Our Association currently has over sixty empty five gallon buckets that need to be filled. **If you would like to help in this ministry by coordinating the filling of some of the buckets or can donate materials or money to buy the required materials, please contact the church office.** Learn more at <https://cwskits.org/>.

**-Our members, friends and visitors give their offerings and donations to the church in many different ways,** to include electronically via apps like [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) and bank transfers. To help accommodate the varied ways of giving, we have an offering box in the narthex as well as offering plates by the pews in the rear of the sanctuary to place Sunday morning offerings as you enter or leave the sanctuary. We will also have two ushers accept

offerings during the Hymn of Reflection after the sermon as another option. Thank you for your financial support of the ministries of St. Paul's and your faithful giving in response to what God has given us!

**-In an effort to keep our records up to date**, please contact the church office if you have had a change to any of your information, to include phone or cell phone numbers, email or home addresses, or any family updates.

**-When you or a loved one is sick or in the hospital for an extended stay**, do not assume that the pastor will know you are there. Please call or email the church office so that Pastor Ken can provide you with spiritual care!

**-Prayer is Powerful!** Please call or email the church office with your prayer concerns. We believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you. **We have a prayer concerns email group for anyone interested.**

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, *Nancy Shellhammer, Tammy Saunders*, Sue Zimmerman, Jeff Palerino, Charlie Heim, Chris Berger, Jim Reibsane, Joe Maurer, Ardith Moyer, Ernie Jones, Jacob, Tom Kunkle, Dale Kunkle, Norma Koperna, Donald Rubinkam

CANCER PATIENTS: Boone, Marie Bleu, Cindy Boyer, Karen DiCamillo, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Yvonne Edling, Glennis Eifert, Joanne Forbes, Thomas Galligan, Meg Goodwin, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Tom Nagle, Rich Nickel, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson

## **FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**

### **Sunday, January 26**

-Cabinet Meeting following worship

2:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting/ Cake Bake-off

### **Wednesday, January 29**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

### **Sunday, February 2**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Boy Scout Sunday

-Tech Team demo following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

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

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30



join us!

# LET'S ROLL



**Saturday  
March 1st  
from  
12:30-  
3:30pm**

**Sunday School will pick a raffle  
winner & cover the cost of  
admission and skate rentals for  
children 18 and under.**

**YOUTH MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE CHAPERONE.  
THIS EVENT IS DURING PUBLIC OPEN SKATE.**