

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Palm/ Passion Sunday, April 13, 2025



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
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**Palm/Passion Sunday, Blessing of the Palms,
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries,
Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Confirmation Class of 1975
and Special Music by the Sunday School**

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, **Palm/ Passion Sunday**.

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.

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 1975: Clyde Leymeister, Jr., Rebecca (Reber) McBreen, Sherry (Bolton) Stump and Cheryl (Clauser) Zimmerman

LENTEN CANDLES

Pastor: Jesus was in the wilderness forty days.

People: “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Pastor: The King has arrived, triumphant and victorious.

People: Arise, Jerusalem! Sing, O Zion! Let hosannas fill the skies, greet our humble King!

[Extinguish one candle. Do not light it again until Easter]

Pastor: Greet the humble King. Greet the one who humbled himself all the way to the cross.

People: O gracious God, draw us near with Christ’s love. Let your Holy Spirit bring blessings from above. Amen.

HYMN OF REPENTANCE.....“Just As I Am” (Verse 6)

*Just as I am, Thy love unknown, has broken every barrier down;
now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus is the rock of our salvation.

People: But the builders rejected that rock.

Pastor: Jesus is the gate of righteousness.

People: But so many consider him a fraud.

Pastor: Jesus has become the cornerstone of our lives.

People: Shall we enter his gate of righteousness?

Pastor: Yes! Let us worship the Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 265.....“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

CELEBRATION OF 50TH CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Abiding Spirit, your love meets us in our need. On this Palm Sunday celebration, we yearn to be free of doubt, healed of our weaknesses, and freed from our denials and betrayals. Correct our wayward feet and our fickle hearts, for we long to walk in your ways, lest we stumble and fall in times of trial. In your holy name, 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

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

SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN.....

"The Hosanna Song" - Words and Music by Pete Carlson; Arranged by Bruce Greer

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector, Brook Koch-Guers

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (**Read responsively**)

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

Lector: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

People: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

Lector: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Lector: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

People: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Lector: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Lector: The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

People: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11 (Page 1023)

Gospel: Luke 19:28-40 (Page 913)

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.....“Lift Up Your Voice” by Stan Morse

SERMON.....“About Face”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 267.....“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

CELEBRATION OF APRIL BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Ella Sophia, daughter of Wade and Diona Sterner

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Apostles Creed in the form of a Litany

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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

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: On the back of a donkey,

People: Jesus came to bless us.

Pastor: With the light of his love,

People: Jesus came to illumine our way.

Pastor: From the power of aimlessness and sin,

People: Jesus came to set us free.

Pastor: With the power of the Holy Spirit,

People: Jesus came to save us.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 268.....“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

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 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 memory of Harry A. Edwards, Jr. by wife Mabel, daughter Nancy, and son-in-law Garry Wesner.

-The Palms are in memory of Bill and Beaty Spotts, Billy Spotts, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trumbo, Sr. and Jacques Ebling by Verna Ebling and family, and Donna Spotts and family.

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

-The April Communion offering will support the Schuylkill Association General Fund.

-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service TODAY. We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary.

- **There will be a Consistory Meeting this Tuesday, April 15** at 7:00pm in the conference room.

-**This Maundy Thursday, April 17**, at 6:00pm, we will gather in the fellowship hall for our version of the **Seder meal**. Seder is a transliteration of the Hebrew סדר, which means 'order' or 'procedure'. The name also expresses the conduct of the meal, all the dishes, the blessings, the prayers, the stories and the songs, written in the Haggadah, a book that determines the order of Passover and tells the story of the Exodus from Egypt. There is a sign-up sheet by the bulletin basket on the table in the narthex. You do not need to sign-up but it helps in the food preparation. Help is needed to prepare food during the day. If you are able to help, please speak to Pastor Ken.

-**A Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held this Friday, April 18** at 7:00pm. Tenebrae is the Latin term for shadows. It is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights to represent the death of Jesus Christ.

-**Please join us for one or all of our services on Easter Sunday, April 20**. We will rejoice and celebrate Christ's resurrection beginning with our Sunrise Service at 6:30am on Easter morning. An Easter Breakfast will be held in the fellowship hall at approximately 7:15am followed immediately by a worship service with Holy Communion around the breakfast table (8:15am). Sunday School will be held at 9:15am, followed by the 10:30am Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion and the St. Paul's Minstrels. There is a sign-up sheet for the breakfast located on the bulletin table. You do not have to sign up to attend, but it helps in the meal planning.

-**It's soon 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.

-**St Paul's UCC is having a YARD SALE on Saturday, May 3 from 8am to 1pm**. There will be indoor and outdoor spaces available for members of the church and their friends. Spaces cost \$10 and can be paid to Trevor Smith or the church office. In addition, we will also be having a small concession stand and bake sale. We are kindly asking for donations of food items and baked goods, as well as volunteers to help in the kitchen. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex for vendors as well as food donations/volunteers. Flyers are available for advertisement. The deadline to sign up will be **Sunday, April 27th**. On **Friday, May 2**, the church will be open from **9am to 1pm** and **3pm to 7pm** for those that have an indoor space to set up their items. Food and bake sale items can also be dropped off during those hours. On Saturday, the church will open at 6:30am for outdoor setup and food preparations.

-**The 2025 Spring Meeting of the Schuylkill Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ will gather Sunday, May 4** at 3pm at First United Church of Christ, 110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven. Registration will begin at 2:30pm.

-**Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, May 6** at 7pm. The meeting will take place downstairs in room B1. Please speak to Laura Carll, any Sunday School teachers, Pastor Ken or the church office for more information.

-**There will be a Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches blood drive on Thursday, May 8** at Jerusalem Lutheran, Schuylkill Haven from 1-6 PM. Please give!

-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, May 12** at 8:30am and **Friday, May 16** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-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, May 13.** If you are interested in knitting and/or crocheting, we can hook you up! Please speak to Nancy Dewald for more information. If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

-The **Sunday School** is holding a **sandwich sale with pick up on Saturday, May 24 or Sunday, May 25** to support VBS 2025. Order forms are included in the newsletter and on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$6 each and **orders are due by Sunday, May 18.** Thank you for your support!

-We have again designated the **third Sunday of the month** as **“Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday.** The upcoming dates are **May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17 and September 21.** We will have a Blessing of the Bikes on our first ride in May. 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!

-Join us for a **Service of Remembrance at the Veterans Memorial next to the Summer Hill Cemetery on Sunday, May 25** at 10:00am. We will join together with our neighbors from the St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. This is a wonderful and very meaningful way to begin our holiday week, and start off summer on the right note. Children are more than welcome to bring flowers to lay at the memorial.

-Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School** (“True North- Trusting Jesus in a Wild World”) which will be held here at St. Paul’s **June 16-20** from 6-8:30pm each day. Please save the date and share with all your relatives, friends and neighbors. Please speak to Bill Reber at 570-754-7225. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

-**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 AND also a prayer phone call chain for anyone interested.** Please contact the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, *Terri Snyder, family and friends of Hank Hummel*, Alex Krammes and twins, Kenneth Smith, Roxann and Kevin Sweigert, Aiden Rodriguez, Angie Kutz, Tom Saunders, Brandon Wright, Mary Maurer, Margot Evans Carey, Alvin Spirko, Brian Moyer, Ardith Moyer

CANCER PATIENTS: Marie Bleu, Cindy Boyer, Karen DiCamillo, *Deb Dimitri*, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Joanne Forbes, Thomas Galligan, Meg Goodwin, Rebecca Henderson, Lisa Hoynoski, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Tara Moss, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Nick Reading, Pat Reading, *Jen Semenco*, Jim Thompson

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, April 13

Sunday, April 13 *Palm/ Passion Sunday

-Fellowship time following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Monday, April 14

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

Tuesday, April 15

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Thursday, April 17 *Maundy Thursday

6:00 PM -Seder Meal Worship Service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

-Senior Choir Rehearsal following worship

Friday, April 18 *Good Friday

7:00 PM -Tenebrae Worship Service

Saturday, April 19 *Holy Saturday

Sunday, April 20 *Easter Sunday

6:30 AM -Sunrise Worship Service with St. Paul's Minstrels

7:15 AM -Easter Breakfast

8:15 AM -Worship service with Holy Communion around the breakfast table

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with Holy Communion and St. Paul's Minsrels

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

John 20:1-18

Isaiah 65:17-25

I Corinthians 15:19-26

Luke 24:1-12