

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, April 27, 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)

Second 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: With trumpet sounds and singing hearts,

**People: We come to praise the Lord.**

Pastor: As faithful witnesses of Christ’s grace and love,

**People: We come to praise the Lord.**

Pastor: Coming here with our doubts and our faith,

**People: We come to praise the Lord. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 310.....“Thine Is the Glory”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Loving Christ, you welcomed Thomas’ questions, even his doubts. Welcome us, too, with your grace and your love. Offer your hand of forgiveness and show us the truth of your presence. Fill us with the power of your love, that your grace, forgiveness, and love may flow freely to others. In gratitude and joy, 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: In grace, we are forgiven.

**People: In love, we are freed.**

Pastor: In Christ, peace and assurance are ours. 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

Psalm: Psalm 150 (**Read responsively**)

Lector: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

**People: Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

Lector: Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

**People: Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!**

Lector: Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

**People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Amen.**

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 5:27-32 (Page 951)

Epistle: Book of Revelation 1:4-8 (Page 1072)

Gospel: 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...“Lord of All to Me”- Words and Music by Jeff Lippencott, Arranged by Kyle Hill

SERMON.....“We Have Seen The Lord”

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*The congregation may remain seated.*

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

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 299.....“That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”

*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: Believe where you have not seen.

**People: Our hearts will lead the way.**

Pastor: Trust where you have reason to doubt.

**People: Our souls will lead us home.**

Pastor: Hope where you have cause to despair.

**People: Our lives will know joy and peace.**

#### BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 447.....“Because He Lives”

#### 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 Mary J. Scifres  
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 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 20, 2025: \$4,353.00

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

**-The April Communion offering supports the Schuylkill Association General Fund. The May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries.**

**-It's 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.

**-TODAY is the deadline to sign up for the St Paul's UCC YARD SALE being held this Saturday, May 3** from 8am to 1pm. There are 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. This 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 be held next Sunday, May 4** at 3pm at First United Church of Christ, 110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven. Registration will begin at 2:30pm.

**-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!

**-On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, we will receive our annual offering for Phoebe Ministries.** This ministry provides long-term care and programs for seniors.

**-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, May 11.** 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.)

-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 **Tuesday, May 13** from 10am-12noon in the conference room. **They will take a summer break in June, July and August, and begin meeting the second Tuesday of the month again in September.** 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.

-**Sunday, May 25** is Youth Sunday. Come out and support our Confirmation students as they lead worship for us that day.

-There will be a **Pennsylvania Southeast Conference Spring meeting on Saturday, May 31** at Zwingli UCC, Souderton. Please see Pastor Ken for more information.

-Our summer worship schedule will begin on **Sunday, June 1.** During the months of June, July and August, worship will be held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. There will be no Sunday school during this time. Worship will resume at 10:30am on Sunday, September 7.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the **Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, June 3** at 6:30pm. 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 **Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on Tuesday, June 3** at 7:00pm in downstairs room B1. Anyone interested in helping at VBS, which will be held June 17-21, is invited to attend. Please speak to Bill Reber for more information.

-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 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, **Brandon Wright, Donald Borger Sr.,** Anna Mae Minchoff, Shirley Williamson, Mary Maurer, Alex Krammes and twins, Terri Snyder, Kenneth Smith, Roxann and Kevin Sweigert, Aiden Rodriguez, Margot Evans Carey, 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 27**

### **Sunday, April 27 \*Deadline to sign-up for the church yard sale**

12:30 – 6:00 PM -Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony (2pm-Sanctuary) and Meal (Fellowship Hall)

### **Wednesday, April 30**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

### **Friday, May 2**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 3:00 – 7:00 PM -Yard Sale Set up

### **Saturday, May 3**

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM -Church Yard Sale

### **Sunday, May 4**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

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

3:00 PM -Schuylkill Association Spring Meeting at First United Church of Christ, Sch. Haven

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

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

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalms 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19