



## St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC

### May 2025 Newsletter



### Pastor's Page

Easter Greetings Summer Hill!

Is it just me, or have you also noticed the wave of revival flowing through St. Paul's Summer Hill? At first I wasn't exactly sure what it was, but I have been feeling some powerful energy radiating through our church community. I thought my optimism must just be from the beautiful spring days we have had, but then I still felt it even on those few pesky colder days last month. It started a while back, and kept getting stronger all through the Lenten season.

I think everyone must have really felt it during Holy Week, beginning on Palm Sunday and continuing to build during our Maundy Thursday Seder Meal service and Good Friday service. And if you did not feel it at one of our three wonderful Easter morning services, then perhaps you just haven't been to church lately. Because if you have been worshiping with us, I am sure you would agree that this power is the Holy Spirit at work in our lives.

I cannot help but think that this is the same feeling the disciples must have felt in the weeks after that very first Easter day, when the Risen Lord appeared to them with greetings of "Peace be with you." During the next forty days, Jesus continued to appear to many people, teaching them and opening their minds to the scriptures. He was preparing them for their next big step in becoming the church, the Body of Christ here on earth.

We are in that same type of forty-day period today. We are still being prepared for our mission as part of the Body of Christ, just like generations of Christians have been before us. Church tradition holds that Christ ascended into heaven on what is now known as Ascension Day, which falls on Thursday, May 29th this year and

is the fortieth day of Easter. This is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to around 68 CE.

On the fiftieth day of Easter we will celebrate Pentecost, which falls on Sunday, June 8th this year. Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks. Everything really changed after that!

That powerful energy radiating all through St. Paul's is still the Holy Spirit, working through each of us to be the church. We are all being equipped for our mission to reach out to our community and beyond to spread God's love to all people. We are doing that in many wonderful, exciting, and fun ways.

- We do it through our Sunday school programs, confirmation classes, food pantry, food drives, and Vacation Bible School, and the One Rock One Community Gospel Concert.
- We do it when we support the Scouts, host civic organizations, and participate in our Association, Conference, and Council of Churches events.
- We do it when we build fellowship as a community of believers during the many small group fellowship programs and activities held all year long at St. Paul's.

This is a vibrant community of faith, full of the Holy Spirit, and poised to go out into the world to make disciples and share God's love. Embrace that energy, be a part of it, and invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we live out our faith as Easter people.

Continued Easter Blessings!

Pastor Ken

## Communion Offerings

The May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries.

The June Communion offering is designated to the Pastor's Emergency Relief Fund.

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## Church Yard Sale- May 3

ST PAUL'S UCC IS HAVING A YARD SALE - **Saturday, May 3** from 8AM to 1PM. If you would still like to help, food donations and baked goods would be greatly appreciated. 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 these hours. On Saturday, the church will open at 6:30am for outdoor setup and food prep.

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## Schuylkill Association Meeting

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

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## Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Blood Drives



The future dates for the Council's blood bank are **May 8, July 17, September 18 and November 13** at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven from 1-6pm. Please give!

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## Phoebe Offering

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

## Fellowship Time

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.)

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## Schuylkill Haven Area Food Pantry

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 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.

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## Prayer Shawl Committee

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet **Tues., 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.

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## Help is Needed Mowing

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.

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*"In the darkest moments,  
bright flows the river of God."*

—St. John of the Cross

## Sandwich Sale Fundraiser

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 this newsletter and on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$6 each and orders are due by **Sun., May 18**. Thank you for your support!

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## Motorcycle Sunday

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!

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## Consistory Meeting

The next Consistory Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 20** at 7:00pm.

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## Join Us In Remembering....

### MEMORIAL DAY



Service at the Veterans  
Memorial next to the  
Summer Hill Cemetery  
**Sunday, May 25**  
at 10:00am

We will join with our neighbors from St. Paul's Lutheran Church for this Memorial service of remembrance. 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.

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## Youth Sunday

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

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## PSEC Spring Meeting

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

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## Summer Worship Schedule

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.

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## Board of Christian Ed. Meeting

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.

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## VBS Planning Meeting

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.

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## Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday

On **Sunday, June 8** we will celebrate the birthday of the church and confirm the baptismal vows of our Confirmands as we welcome them into church membership.

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## Calling All Graduates

During our 9:30am worship service on **Sunday, June 29**, we will be recognizing and congratulating the graduates from our congregation. If you or

someone you know is graduating from High School, College, a Technical School or some other institution of higher learning, please contact the church office **by June 15**, so that we may recognize them for their fantastic achievement.

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Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Paul's Monday through Friday, **June 16-20** from 6pm-8:30pm. 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 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. You may also speak to Bill Reber at 570-754-7225.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

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## Outdoor Worship

Outdoor worship services will be held once a month, the fourth Sunday of the month. Grab your lawn chair or favorite blanket and join us once again amidst the beauty of God's creation. Our first outdoor service will be held on the front church lawn on **Sunday, June 22** at 9:30am. We will also worship outdoors on **Sunday, July 27** and **Sunday, August 24**. Please note: in case of inclement weather, the services will be moved inside and held in the sanctuary.

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## Youth Acolytes Needed

We are looking for youth to serve as acolytes on Sunday mornings during the worship services. If your child is interested in helping and would like to learn more, please speak to Laura Carll, Pastor Ken or the church office. Training will be provided.

## 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)

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## CWS Clean-Up Buckets

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 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/>.

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Your Consistory met on April 15, 2025 and discussed the following items:

Mentioned the church receiving its credit cards.

Noted the progress made on the elevator service tests and inspection. We successfully made our case to lower costs with our current contacts in comparison to other providers.

Looking into sealing parking lot cracks.

May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries

June Communion offering will support the Pastor's Emergency Relief Fund

The next Consistory Mtg. will be held on May 20, 2025.

Respectfully yours,  
Trevor Smith, Secretary





**St. Paul's UCC/St. Paul's Lutheran (Summer Hill) VBS Registration Form**  
**(One per child)**

**June 16-20 6:00 to 8:30**

**Closing Program June 20**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt size: Please circle

Child XS(2-4) SM (6-8) M (10-12) L (14-16)

Adult SM (34-36) M (38-40) L (42-44) XL (46-48) 2XL (50-52)

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL SANDWICH ORDERS

**PICKUP: Saturday, May 24, FROM 10 AM until 11 AM**  
**or on Sunday, May 25, after Sunday School or church.**

**Pickup will be in the fellowship hall.**

**Orders are due by Sunday May 18.**

**Orders may be placed at 570-385-5638 or**

**wareber@comcast.net**

**\$6.00 EACH**

All proceeds benefit Vacation Bible School 2025.

Sandwiches are on a soft ATV roll and include 1/4 lb. chipped ham or 1/4 lb. turkey with 1 slice of American cheese.

**PLEASE CIRCLE ONE - I WILL PICK UP**  
**ON.....SATURDAY ..... SUNDAY**

**NAME:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

ITEM	QUANTITY
HAM	
TURKEY	

**TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOTAL PAID: \_\_\_\_\_**

## Thank You!!

-to Dean and Lori Edwards for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for May 2025

-to Gary Bailey for his donation of the adorable handmade Easter baskets for our annual Easter egg hunt

-Dear Members of St. Paul's,

We would like to say thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy we received after the passing of our mother, Joan Berkheiser. Your concern for us during this difficult time was uplifting and certainly appreciated. Thank you for your support during this difficult time.

The Berkheiser Family

-to all the members for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars® in the amount of \$465.00

-Dear Members of St. Paul's UCC Summer Hill,

We have shared many chapters of our lives with you in the past 60 plus years.

We know with the Lord's help and yours we are ready to start the next chapter.

Thank you for the gift card and certificate.

May God bless us all. Love,

Brian and Cindy Clauser

-to Bill Reber for mowing the church lawn

-to all those who donated their time helping and/or baked goods for the Holy Week Seder meal and Easter breakfast

-to the Friedensburg Country Restaurant for their donation of the potato filling and gravy for the Seder meal, and their food donations and time for the Easter breakfast

-Dear Pastor Ken, Consistory and Members of St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for the cards and kind words, the gift cards and beautiful flowers that I received for Administrative Professional's Day on April 23!! It was very much appreciated and the gift cards will be put to good use! I love flowers so they will be enjoyed very much. I am very grateful for my church family and enjoy being able to serve our community. Thank you again! God Bless! Kelly

## Lectionary Readings:

**Third Sunday of Easter, May 4**

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

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 11 (Mother's Day)**

Acts 9:36-43

Psalms 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter – May 18**

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

## **Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 25**

Acts 16:9-15

Psalms 67

Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

## **Seventh Sunday of Easter – June 1**

Acts 16:16-34

Psalms 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

## **Pentecost Sunday- June 8**

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

Spiritually speaking, Christ's Ascension means he is with us wherever we find ourselves. Christ desires to be present with us everywhere we go. His presence is universal. He is here now. "Believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16, NRSV) — that is what the Ascension affirms.

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## **You're Going Places!**

Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns.

Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss.

In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 (NRSV): "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

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## **"He ascended into heaven..."**



During his earthly ministry, Jesus could be physically present in only one place at any given time. "Only those could speak to him who came to where he was," explained Archbishop

William Temple. "If he was in Galilee, people could not find him in Jerusalem; if he was in Jerusalem, they could not find him in Galilee" (from *Readings in St. John's Gospel*).

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## **A Prayer For Mother's Day**

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days.

We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

# WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Christian stewardship is grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in the light of God's purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions.

Stewardship is lived out in:

- Living and telling the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Sharing God in seeking justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in our interdependent world
- Wisely employing God-given human resources, abilities, and relationships
- Sharing the material resources we hold and giving them in service, justice, and compassion
- Providing for future generations
- Sharing in the life, worship, and responsible stewardship of the Church and of its mission

*Stewardship is a joyful act of worship of God.*


**Thank you for your gifts to the church of your time, talent, and treasure.**

**Thank you to those who have responded to our need to meet the rising costs we have experienced.**

**Please use this chart to guide you in determining your level of generosity.**

**GO&DO  
THE SAME**

Weekly Giving Guide								
ANNUAL INCOME	MONTHLY INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
18,000	1,500	346	14.00	21.00	28.00	35.00	42.00	52.00
25,000	2,083	481	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	58.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	69.00	87.00
40,000	3,333	769	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	92.00	115.00
45,000	3,750	65	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	104.00	130.00
50,000	4,167	962	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	115.00	144.00
60,000	5,000	1,154	46.00	69.00	92.00	115.00	138.00	173.00
75,000	6,250	1,442	58.00	87.00	115.00	144.00	173.00	216.00
100,000	8,333	1,923	77.00	115.00	154.00	192.00	231.00	288.00
125,000	10,417	2,404	96.00	144.00	192.00	240.00	288.00	361.00
150,000	12,500	2,885	115.00	173.00	231.00	289.00	346.00	433.00
175,000	14,583	3,365	135.00	202.00	269.00	337.00	404.00	505.00
200,000	16,667	3,846	154.00	231.00	308.00	385.00	462.00	577.00
225,000	18,750	4,327	173.00	260.00	346.00	433.00	519.00	649.00

 **Tithe**

***Fear closes the hand and hoards – Faith opens the hand and shares.***

**--Bruce A. Barkhauer**

<https://cdn.centerforfaithandgiving.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/22003828/Giving-Guide.pdf>



## May Birthdays

- 1 - Jill Cutter
- 3 - Jeff Palerino
  - Jillian Horvath
- 4 - Lucille A. Faust
  - Lily Meck
- 6 - Cheryl Zimmerman
  - Brock Koch
  - Michael Mattes
  - Mya Clauser
- 7 - Linda Honyara
  - Dara (Deibert) Moucheron
- 11 - Sheryl Fuller
  - Ron Koch
  - Bailey Hoppes
- 12 - Barbara Leete
- 15 - Logan Ulsh
- 16 - Zachary Palerino
  - Elias Nagle
- 17 - Bob Guers
- 18 - Adam Carll
- 19 - Madeline Langan
- 20 - Eric Reber
- 21 - Dave Heim
  - Donna Tranosky
- 23 - Shirley Reber
- 24 - Ashley Heffner
- 25 - Bradley Epler
  - Lauren Smith
- 26 - Brian K. Moyer
  - Josephine Good
  - Harper Moucheron
- 28 - Logan Koch
- 29 - Maci Sterner
- 30 - Jacob Kline
- 31 - Lori Moyer

## May Anniversaries

- 11 - Ardith and Paul Moyer
- 14 - Ryan and Heather Carey
- 17 - Jeremy and Lynn Warke
- 18 - Robin and Chuck Ferguson
- 20 - Christine and Joe Maurer
  - Deborah and Brian Langan
- 28 - Debbie and Dave Deibert

## May Baptismal Anniversaries

- Maylee Grace, daughter of Bradley and Ashley Epler

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## Special Dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 1, 2025*
- Mother's Day, *May 11, 2025*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 17, 2025*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 19, 2025*
- Memorial Day, *May 26, 2025*
- Ascension Day, *May 29, 2025*

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## Christian Symbol



ALPHA MU OMEGA — The Greek letters that begin the words yesterday, today and forever remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NIV). Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever" (for example, Psalm 100:5, NRSV). What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!

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## Bible Quiz

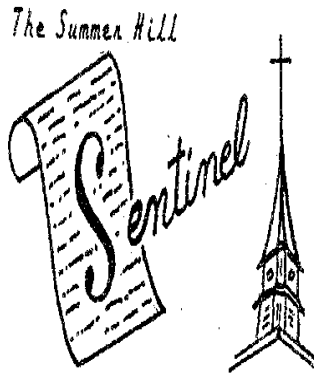
What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna

Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40.)

**May 2025**

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
1235 Summer Hill Road  
Auburn, PA 17922**



**Church Phone: 570-754-7225**

**Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor: 610-207-4783**

**Office Hours: Tues.– Friday 9am - 2pm**

**Email: [summerhillucc@gmail.com](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)**

**Address Service Requested**

**Visit the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference –**

**[www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org)**

**Visit the United Church of Christ – [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)**

### **Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Ken McDowell

**Church Administrator & Custodian:** Kelly  
Palerino

**Music Director/ Pianist:** Rae Ann Borger

**Organists:** Jacob Challenger/ Colin Andrew  
(Supply)

### **Church Leadership**

**Consistory President:** Pam Clauser

**Consistory Vice President:** Jeff Palerino

**Consistory Secretary:** Trevor Smith

**Consistory Assistant Secretary:** Terri Saunders

**Treasurer:** Lori Moyer

**Financial Secretary:** Kathy Kline

**Consistory Elders:** Pam Clauser, Robin Ferguson  
and Jeff Palerino

**Consistory Trustees:** Mike Reber, Clint Clauser  
and Kelly Palerino

**Stewardship/Mission- Deacons of Consistory:**

Kathy Kline, Carol Mengel, Trevor Smith,  
Lori Moyer, Tom and Terri Saunders

**Board of Christian Education Chairperson &**

**Summer Hill Youth Group:** Laura Carl

**Board of Christian Education Vice-**

**Chairperson:** Vicky Borger

**Board of Christian Education Secretary:**

Amy Zimmerman

**Sunday Morning Coordinator:** Trevor Smith

**Assistant Sunday Coordinator:** David Deibert

**Budget Committee:** Pam Clauser

**Personnel Committee:** Lori Moyer

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Chair:** Nancy Dewald

**Altar Committee Chairperson:** Kelly Palerino

**May 2025**