

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, June 1, 2025

**THAT THE WORLD
MAY BELIEVE**

JOHN 17:20-26

1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783
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Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

Seventh 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 PSEC Conference Ministers and 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.

(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: The Alpha and Omega says, “Come.”

People: Let everyone who hears come into God’s presence.

Pastor: The tree of life says, “Come.”

People: Let those who seek eternal life come to the root and the descendent of David, our bright morning star.

Pastor: The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”

People: Let everyone who is thirsty come to the heavenly banquet and drink from the wine of our salvation

Pastor: Come! Let us worship God together. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 317.....“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

O God, from the demons that haunt our lives, deliver us. From the self-judgment and shame that dim the light within us, save us. From the hurts and sorrows that harm us, heal us. Cover us with your comfort, grace, and love, that we may shine with your glory and grace. 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: Light has dawned upon us through Christ, our bright morning star.

People: We walk in the light and know the joy of forgiveness

Pastor: Through the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, 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, Mike Fessler
First reading: Acts 16:16-34 (Page 963)
Epistle reading: Book of Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 (Page 1087)
Gospel: John 17:20-26 (Page 941)

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.....“Clap Your Hands” by Dennis Allen
SERMON.....“Come, Lord Jesus”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN NO. 318.....“Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending”

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: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst."

People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

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:

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):

O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of darkness into marvelous light, enable us now strengthened by this meal to declare your wonderful deed. Thank you, O God, for your steadfast love and may we praise you now and forever with heart, mind, soul and strength. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: The one who invited us to come now sends us forth to share the light of the bright morning star with the world.

People: We go forth from this place, but we never leave God's presence.

Pastor: May the grace of the Lord be with us, as we seek to fulfill Christ's hope that we may all be one.

People: We go forth, empowered and strengthened, to love and serve as one people of God.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 323.....“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

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 flower and bulletins are in memory of Fern Krause by Ron and Debbie Koch.

-Offering on Sunday, May 25, 2025: \$2,763.00

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

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

-We are continuing our SUMMER FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE! with donations due next Sunday, June 8. Please pick up a flyer in the Narthex of the church for a guide to 31 items which will help provide some nutritious meals for local families this summer! ANY DONATION WILL HELP, but let's see if we can again MEET THE CHALLENGE! Contact Brook Koch-Guers for more information or to schedule a pickup of your donation at 570-449-0825.

-VBS 2025 is fast approaching! “True North- Trusting Jesus is a Wild World” will be held June 16-20 from 6-8:30pm each day. All children 4-12 are welcome to attend. Community posters and registration forms are available on the table in the narthex. **Be sure to register now.** More information can be found in the newsletter and on the members of St. Paul's Facebook page. Please speak to Bill Reber for more information.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the **Board of Christian Education Meeting this 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 this 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.

-It's time for the 3rd Annual St Paul's UCC Golf Outing. Gavin, Gaige, and Chase Guers are again coordinating an afternoon of fellowship and golf at Hidden Valley Golf Course. **This year it will be held on Sunday, June 29th**, beginning at 1:30 pm. We will go to Buddy's Log Cabin in Pine Grove for Ice Cream following golf. Please RSVP by signing up on the signup sheet in the church's Narthex or by calling or texting Gavin Guers at 570-789-4239 or Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825. The cost is \$40 for adults and \$20 for those 15 and under. We hope you'll join

us! Whether you're a seasoned pro or a newbie, there's fun for all on the golf course! (and who doesn't like ice cream for dessert before dinner) **The deadline to sign up is next Sunday, June 8:** (We may be able to accommodate a few additional golfers after the deadline, but the golf course has requested numbers by the 8th.)

-Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday will be next Sunday, June 8 at 9:30am. We will celebrate the birthday of the church and confirm the baptismal vows of our Confirmands as we welcome them into church membership.

-We will collect the Strengthen the Church offering next Sunday, June 8. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.

-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 9:30am worship service next Sunday, June 8. 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.)

-On Tuesday, June 10, the Schuylkill Haven Borough will host the 18th Annual Senior Citizen Appreciation Day and Picnic at the Island Park Pavilion from 4-7pm. All persons 60 years of age or older who live within the Schuylkill Haven Borough, are members of churches from the Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity Council of Churches or are a member of the Schuylkill Haven Senior Citizens Organization are invited to attend, free of charge. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, pasta salad, ice cream, watermelon and lots of goodies! There will also be health screenings, information booths, prize bingo and entertainment. RSVP is appreciated at 570-385-1313. More information is available on the flyer on the church bulletin board.

-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.

-On Sunday, June 15 (Father's Day), we will be collecting a special offering designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries.

-We have again designated the third Sunday of the month as "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday. The upcoming dates are **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!

-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, June 16** at 8:30am and **Friday, June 20** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office if you would like to help/ donate.

-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.

-On Sunday, June 29 we will collect the 5th Sunday offering which is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry. Special envelopes will become available.

-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 if you would like to be added to these lists.

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, ***Dave Heim, family and friends of Mabel Edwards***, Ron McDowell, Garrett Guers, Kenny Brown, Scott Dickinson, Kathy Martin, Cathy Krause, Brandon Wright, Donald Borger Sr.

CANCER PATIENTS: Marie Bleu, Cindy Boyer, Deb Dimitri, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, 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, JUNE 1

Sunday, June 1 *Summer Worship Schedule begins!

Monday, June 2

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, June 3

6:30 PM -Board of Christian Education Meeting

7:00 PM -VBS Planning Meeting

Pentecost Sunday, June 8 *Food Drive Challenge donations due

9:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Rite of Confirmation, Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries and the Strengthen the Church offering
-Fellowship time following worship
-Red geranium orders available to pick up

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

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