

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, May 11, 2025**

**My sheep hear  
my voice  
I KNOW them  
and they  
FOLLOW me**



**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, May 11, 2025

243 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2025  
10:30am

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries,  
Mother's Day and Phoebe Ministries special offering

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director & Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. Mark's, Cressona** from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar.

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: The God of love and grace invites us in.

**People: Blessed be the God of love!**

Pastor: The God of power and might welcomes us here.

**People: Glory to God on high!**

Pastor: The God of wisdom and truth speaks to us now.

**People: Praise the One who speaks truth to our hearts! Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 9....."Come, Let Us Praise the Lord"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**God of love and grace, we yearn for a world where love and grace guide our steps and bless our days. We dream of families and communities led by love and guided by grace. Yet, division, danger, and death interrupt our dreams and dampen our hopes for our lives. Comfort us in our sorrow. Heal us in our troubles. Forgive us when we go astray. Protect us in this dangerous world. Unify us with your love and grace, that we might offer your abundant love and amazing grace, everywhere we go. 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: Trust our shepherd who says: "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

**People: Jesus says, "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand."**

Pastor: Rest safe and secure that our shepherd loves us, and leads us into life. Rejoice, for 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

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 9:36-43 (Page 956)  
Psalm: Psalm 23 (KJV) (Read in Unison)

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Epistle: Book of Revelation 7:9-17 (Page 1076)  
Gospel: John 10:22-30 (Page 934)

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.....“Lead Me, Lord” by Hal Wright”

SERMON.....“Spoken Loud and Clear”

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*The congregation may remain seated.*

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

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 393.....“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

##### CELEBRATION OF MAY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Maylee Grace, daughter of Bradley and Ashley Epler

*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: Blessed by God,

**People: May we bless the world in the week ahead.**

Pastor: Loved by Christ,

**People: May we love others, in all we say and do.**

Pastor: Empowered by the Spirit,

**People: May we follow faithfully where God leads.**

#### BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 440.....“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

#### SILENT MEDITATION

#### POSTLUDE

\* \* \* \* \*

*Portions of today's worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC's Book of Worship, and by Mary J. Scifres from the 2025 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.*

*Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

*CCLI Copyright License Number 3253621 and CCLI Streaming License Number 20179084.*

-The altar flowers are in memory of our mothers and in honor of all mothers by Lorraine and Earl Phillips.

-The bulletins are in memory of our grandmothers by Jonathan, Julie, Joel, Debbie, and Elisa Phillips.

-Offering on Sunday, May 4, 2025: \$2,257.00

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

**-The May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries. The June Communion offering is designated to the Pastor's Emergency Relief Fund.**

**-TODAY we will receive our annual offering for Phoebe Ministries.** This ministry provides long-term care and programs for seniors. Special envelopes are on the table by the bulletin basket.

**-Join us TODAY following worship for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments.** We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary.

**-Red geranium order forms are available on the table by the bulletin basket. The geraniums will be available to pick up following worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.** The cost is \$7.50 per flower and **orders are due on Sunday, May 25.** The order forms and money can be given to Ardith Moyer or the church office.

-It's that time of year again! **Time for our SUMMER FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE! (Now through May 31<sup>st</sup> with donations due Sunday, June 8)** There are always families struggling to put food on the table. The Food Pantry plays a significant role in meeting this need. However, with changes to programs and funding, the Food Pantry needs our help as well! **PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING ON THIS CHALLENGE!!!** Summertime can be particularly difficult for families. Children are home from school and not receiving school breakfasts and lunches. **St Paul's - LET'S DO OUR PART! 31 DAYS, 31 HOUSEHOLDS, 31 FOOD ITEMS,** and we can provide nearly 1000 items to help families this summer. 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 May newsletter and on the members of St. Paul's Facebook page. Please speak to Bill Reber for more information.

**-In order to help fund VBS, a sandwich sale will be held on May 24th and 25th.** The cost is \$6 each and **orders are due by next Sunday, May 18.** Order forms with information can also be found on the table and in the May newsletter.

**-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.

-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 at the pantry tomorrow** at 8:30am and **this 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 **this 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.

-We have again designated the **third Sunday of the month as “Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday.** **There will be a Blessing of the bikes and ride next Sunday, May 18.** 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 next Consistory Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 20 at 7:00pm.**

-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 our worship service 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.

-**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.

-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) **DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS JUNE 8TH:** (We may be able to accommodate a few additional golfers after the deadline, but the golf course has requested numbers by the 8th.)

**-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.

**-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.

**-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, *Garett Guers, family and friends of Karen DiCamillo, family and friends of Marie Auguste, family and friends of Randy Bender, family and friends of Joanne Forbes,* Kenny Brown, Scott Dickinson, Kathy Martin, Cathy Krause, Brandon Wright, Donald Borger Sr., Shirley Williamson, Mary Maurer, Alex Krammes and twins, Kenneth Smith, Roxann and Kevin Sweigert, Aiden Rodriguez, Margot Evans Carey, Brian Moyer, Ardith Moyer

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, Kathy Smith, Jim Thompson

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 11**

**Sunday, May 11 \*Mother's Day**

-Fellowship Hour following worship

**Monday, May 12**

8:30 AM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

10:30 AM -Pastor Ken conducts Chapel Service at Luther Ridge

6:00 – 9:00 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

**Tuesday, May 13**

10:00 AM -12:00 PM -Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting

**Wednesday, May 14**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, May 16**

12:00 PM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

**Sunday, May 18 \*"Ride your motorcycle to church Sunday"**

**\*Sandwich Sale orders due**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

-Blessing of the bikes and motorcycle ride following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

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

Acts 11:1-18

Psalms 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35