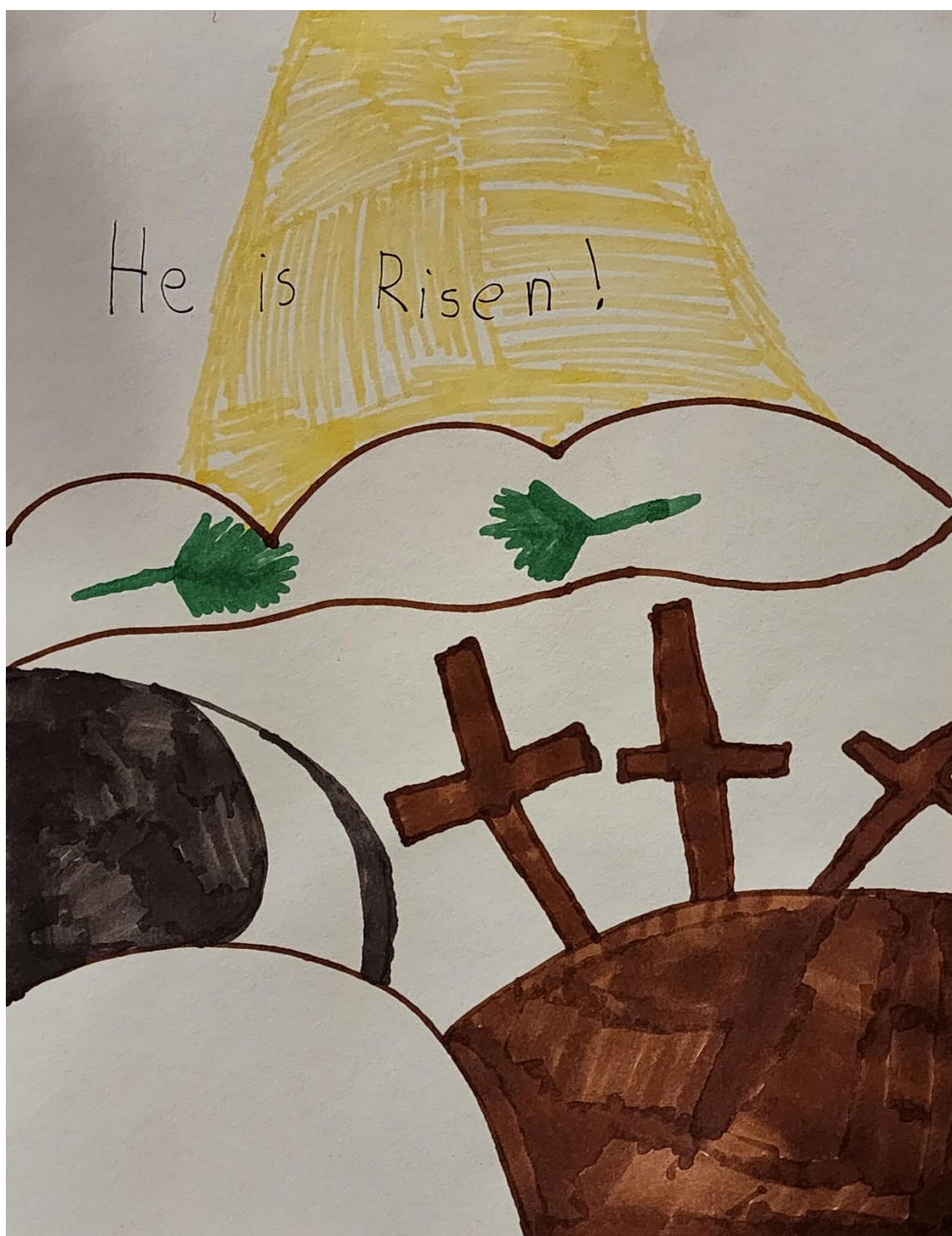


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, May 4, 2025



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

Website: www.summerhillucc.com

Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

Third 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 Schuylkill Association Spring Meeting.**

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: Rejoice in the Lord.
People: Praise God’s holy name.
Pastor: Worthy is the Lamb of our praise.
People: Worthy is the righteous one of blessing, honor, and glory.
Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord.
People: Praise God’s holy name. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 91.....“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Merciful God, help us leave ignorance behind, as we learn to love as you would have us love. Forgive us when false piety blinds us, as Saul before us. Rescue us when we go astray, and renew our desire to feed Christ’s sheep and to tend his lambs. 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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD:.....Lector, Mike Rubinkam

- Acts of the Apostles: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) (Page 955)
- Epistle: Book of Revelation 5:11-14 (Page 1075)
- Gospel Lesson: John 21:1-19 (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.....“If You Love Me” by Tom Fettke
Soloists- Linda Honyara, Lori Moyer and Brandi Kline

SERMON.....“Who Do You Love?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN NO. 480.....“Open My Eyes, That I May See”
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

Pastor: Christ asks: “Do you love me? Feed my lambs.”
People: Receive our love, Lord.

Pastor: Christ challenges: "Do you love me? Tend my sheep."

People: Receive our service, Holy One.

Pastor: Christ entreats: "Do you love me? Feed my sheep."

People: Receive our Gifts, gracious savior.

Pastor: Let all who are able, rise in body or spirit, as we give God thanks for this morning's 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: This table is open to all who confess Jesus as the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. As we come to the table of God's heavenly feast, let us prepare our hearts anew to be in communion with one another and with the risen Christ.

People: We come, ready to partake of bread and cup; ready to commune with one another and with the living God.

The Communion Prayer:

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 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:

Pastor: You gave us Jesus to walk with us and to show us your love.....And so, we offer our very selves, with glad and grateful hearts, as we proclaim this mystery:

People: Christ was with us from the beginning. Christ is with us today. Christ will be with us until the end of time.

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):

Gracious God, we give thanks that through Christ, we live in your favor. We give thanks that through Christ, we come to the table of grace partaking heavenly food and the gift of salvation. Like the great company of witnesses who came to this table before us, we are filled with gratitude and joy for your many blessings. We come before you in praise and thanksgiving, as we commit ourselves again as members of the living body of Christ. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: The Spirit blows us across the sky,

People: showing us God's little ones.

Pastor: The Lamb of God looks on us with love,

People: calling us to feed God's sheep.

Pastor: The Spirit leads us through the darkest nights

People: to a joy that comes with the morning.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 345.....“Jesus Calls Us”

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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*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 honor of Justin Nagle's Birthday (May 16), Elias Nagle's Birthday (May 16), Mathias Nagle's Birthday (April 10), Lucinda Nagle's Birthday (April 25) and Josh and Tina Nagle's Wedding Anniversary (May 29).

-Offering on Sunday, April 27, 2025: \$2,183.00

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

-The May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries.

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

-It's that time of year again! **Time for our SUMMER FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE! (Now through May 31st - 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 Sunday, May 18.** Order forms with information can also be found on the table and in the May newsletter.

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

-On Mother's Day, next Sunday, May 11, 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 for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service next 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.) are very much appreciated.

-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 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.

-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!

-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 worship 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.
- 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.

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, *family and friends of Denise (Zemencik) Miller, family and friends of Terry Snyder, family and friends of Ruth Schwenk, family and friends of Anna Mae Minchoff, family and friends of Keith, Kenny Brown, Scott Dickinson, Kathy Martin, Cathy Krause*, Brandon Wright, Donald Borger Sr., 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, 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, **Kathy Smith**, Jim Thompson

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 4

Sunday, May 4

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

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Monday, May 5

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

Wednesday, May 7

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 8

1:00 – 6:00 PM -Council of Churches Blood Drive at Jerusalem Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 11 *Mother's Day

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries and the Phoebe Offering

-Fellowship Hour following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30