

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, June 8, 2025



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783
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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday
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**Pentecost/ The Rite of Confirmation
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries
The Strengthen the Church Offering**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Jacob Challenger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Pentecost and the Strengthen the Church Offering** from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar.

Please read the announcements that are in this bulletin, the online bulletin, as well as what we post on Facebook, emails, and 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 will be served communion in the pews. Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)

Congratulations to our 2025 Confirmands: Jacoby Edwards, Blake Frantz, Cole Frantz, Thomas Herring and Adalynn Warke

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In rushing wind and cleansing fire . . .
People: God’s Spirit lead us here.
Pastor: In courage found and faith renewed . . .
People: God’s Spirit fills our hearts with longing.
Pastor: In visions seen and dreams made real . . .
People: God’s Spirit takes away our fear.
Pastor: In rushing wind and cleansing fire . . .
People: God’s Spirit sends us to share Christ’s love. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 334.....“On Pentecost They Gathered”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN

Eternal God, live in us on this day of Pentecost, as you live in your Son. Draw us into communion with you and with one another, that we might glorify your name and reveal your majesty to the world. Help us courageously keep your commandments, and boldly proclaim your mighty works, through the power of your Holy Spirit. 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: Hear the good news: the Holy Spirit is always with us, filling us with prophecy, visions, and dreams. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Glory to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 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 Rubinkam

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 2:1-21 (Page 948)

Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:14-17 (Page 983)

Gospel Lesson: John 14:8-17, 25-27 (Page 938)

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, Here Am I” -Words by Fanny J. Crosby, Arranged by Joseph Barlow

SERMON.....“How to Build a Sure Foundation”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CELEBRATION OF JUNE BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew William, son of Christopher Krause and Ashley Heffner Hasenauer

Elias Joseph, son of Joseph and Tamara Nagle

Abram Joseph, son of Joseph and Tamara Nagle

Connor Anthony, son of Jonathan and Melissa Rodnick

Jett Wilson, son of Justin and Kelly Clauser

Brantley Irvin, son of Michael and Sarah Wolfe

Damien Joseph, son of Michael and Sarah Wolfe

Gatlin James, son of Michael and Sarah Wolfe

Caroline Grace, daughter of Adam and Laura Carll

William James, son of Adam and Laura Carll

Silas Aaron, son of Josiah and Angela Meck

Wesson Nicholas, son of Kayla Jones and Vincent Hoppes

Bailey Louise, daughter of Kayla Jones and Vincent Hoppes

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

INVITATION

SENTENCES

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

ADDRESS

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

Elder: Let us, the members of St. Paul's Summer Hill United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

The congregation may be seated.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO OFFERING

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings during the hymn.

HYMN NO. 696....."Come, Share the Lord"

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 AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation:

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:

Pastor: Holy are you, and holy is your child, Jesus, who sent the Holy Spirit.....And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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:

Confirmands Communion:

The Sharing of the Elements:

(Communion elements will be served in the pews. Please hold the bread and wine until all have been served and we partake of the meal together.)

Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving:

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

CHORAL BENEDICTION.....“As We Go” by Jeremy Johnson, Craig Adams and David Shipp

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 595.....“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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Portions of today's worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC's Book of Worship, 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 are in memory of Robert and Helen Edwards by the Edwards Family.

-The bulletins are in honor of Hannah Nagle's Birthday (June 6) by Grandparents, Tom and Lucinda Nagle.

-The arrangement of roses this morning is presented in gratitude to God; in memory of Hattie and George Reber and with thankfulness to Hattie and George for their gift of the land on which the church is built.

-The flowers for the Confirmation Class are presented to the Confirmands by the members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

-Offering on Sunday, June 1, 2025: \$3,337.08

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

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

-We will collect the Strengthen the Church offering TODAY. 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. Special envelopes are available on the table by the bulletin basket.

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

-The SUMMER FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE donations are due TODAY. Contact Brook Koch-Guers to schedule a pickup of your donations 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.

-TODAY is the deadline to sign up 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)

-This 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 next Sunday, June 15**, so that we may recognize them for their fantastic achievement.

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

-Next Sunday, June 15 is "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday, with a ride following the worship service. 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.

-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, ***Phil Dandeneau***, Dave Heim, 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, ***John Redman***, Jen Semenco, Jim Thompson

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Pentecost Sunday, June 8 *Food Drive Challenge donations due

- Fellowship time following worship
- Red geranium orders available to pick up following worship

Monday, June 9

10:30 AM -Pastor Ken conducts chapel service at Luther Ridge

Saturday, June 14 *Reading Phillies Baseball Outing

Pentecost Sunday, June 15 *Trinity Sunday *Father's Day

- 9:30 AM -Worship with "Ride Your Motorcycle to Church Sunday"
and the Locust Lake special offering
- Motorcycle ride following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15