

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

The  
*Baptism*  
of Our Lord



**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](http://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

**Baptism of Christ  
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries  
Recognition and Service of Installation**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **all newly Baptized Christians.**

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.

INVOCATION

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

PRELUDE

*The congregation may stand.*

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The voice of God calls over the waters:

**People: "Beloved, receive the Holy Spirit."**

Pastor: The Son of God beckons:

**People: "Beloved, be born of water and the Spirit."**

Pastor: The Spirit of God proclaims:

**People: "Beloved, be born anew this day."**

Pastor: The voice of God calls through our baptism.

**All: Come! Let us worship the one who gives us life! Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 241....."When Jesus Came to Jordan"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**God of Holy Expectation, when we read about those who serve you, like John, like Jesus, those whom you love and delight in, we yearn to feel your delight in us as well. Our voices can seem weak, our efforts in vain. Forgive us when we feel like dimly burning wicks, just about to go out. Sometimes we are the ones sitting in darkness, even though you call us to help others find their way out of the darkness. Holy One, take us by the hand. Strengthen us in our weakness, that your holy work may be accomplished through us and that we may know your delight in the core of who we are. 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: Listen to the voice that calls forth creation, claims Jesus at his baptism and speaks to us still:

**People: God said, “You are my beloved; receive the Holy Spirit.”**

Pastor: Rest in this assurance, know you are forgiven, and live in the 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, Nancy Dewald

Old Testament: Isaiah 42:1–9 (Page 622)

Psalm: Psalm 29 (Read responsively)

Lector: Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

Lector: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters.

**People: The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

Lector: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**People: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Lector: The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**People: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Lector: The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

**People: The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

Lector: May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Epistle: Acts 10:34–43 (Page 957)

Gospel: Matthew 3:13–17 (Page 837)

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.....“Voice of the Almighty” -Written by David Flavin and Arranged by Jon Case

SERMON.....“Baptized to Serve”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

*The congregation may remain seated.*

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

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 123.....“Fairest Lord Jesus”

CELEBRATION OF JANUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Gabriel Donald, son of Benjamin & Amy Crouse

Stella Ann, daughter of Andrew and Melissa Reber

Luke Allen, son of Zachary and Alexis Palerino

*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.*

RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO SERVED

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Greeting:

Pastor: Grace, mercy and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

**People: To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.**

Recognition of Those Who Serve:

Pastor: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

**People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

Pastor: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

**People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

Pastor: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

**People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**

Pastor: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all parts share its happiness.

**People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.**

Presentation and Covenant:

*The congregation may stand.*

Elder: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

**People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

Laying on of Hands

Declaration

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: Rejoice in the glory of your baptism each and every day.

**People: We will live in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Let your spirits soar like eagles but be as gentle as doves.

**People: We will drink deep from the waters of grace.**

Pastor: Go forth to announce the glory of our God.

**People: We go, renewed and made whole, as a blessing to all.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 132.....“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

SILENT MEDITATION

*Acolytes take the Light out into the world.*

POSTLUDE

\* \* \* \* \*

*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 Rebecca Gaudino 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 and bulletins are in memory of Billy Spotts by Donna, Vicky, Craig, Travis, Alyssa, Owen, Evan and Grant.

-The red rose is in memory of Billy Spotts by Owen, Evan and Grant.

-Offering on Sunday, January 4, 2025: \$2,800.00

-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2026: \$3,368.52

**-The January Communion Offering is designated to the Schuylkill Hope Center for Victims of Domestic Violence (formerly Women in Crisis).**

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

**-We will be helping at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry tomorrow beginning at 8:30am and this Friday at 12pm.** The 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. Please make sure the food items that you donate are not out of date. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

**-The Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting will be this Tuesday, January 13** from 10am-12noon in the conference room. If you are interested in knitting and/or crocheting, we can hook you up! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office or speak to Nancy Dewald.

**-The Newsletter articles for the February 2026 newsletter are due by this Thursday, January 15.**

**-Please have all information for the 2025 Annual Report to the church office by no later than next Sunday, January 18.** The Annual Report will be available early in February prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 22, 2026. Please email your articles to the church office at [summerhillucc@gmail.com](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com), or put them in the secretary's mailbox. Please contact Kelly at the church office if you have any questions.

**-There will be a Consistory Meeting on Tuesday, January 20** at 7pm in the conference room.

**-A Cabinet Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 25.** It will be led by Mike Fessler to discuss a focus and direction for church activities in 2026. All leaders and any church member interested in providing suggestions and input on this topic are encouraged to attend.

**-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.

**-We are still in need of altar prep volunteers. Everyone is welcome!** It can be a rotation schedule on a weekly basis. You can sign up for one week or multiple weeks. Your assistance is needed to change the altar paraments, make sure altar flowers are changed and the oil candles are filled. Training will be provided to anyone interested! It's a minimal commitment, but a great help in keeping our services running smoothly. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please speak to Kelly Palerino.

-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/>.

**-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, **Bob Guers, Jane Warke,** Keith McKeivitt, Diona Sterner, Akbarov family, Shirley Williamson, Lynn Moyer, Jeffrey Paumen, Amy Koons, John Borchick, Carley McGovern, Mary Bartolet, Lester Knapp, Cathy Krause, Pat Guers, Don Rubinkam, Mathias Nagle, Aiden Rodriguez

CANCER PATIENTS: Marie Bleu, Joe Branca, Bill Dobrolsky, Deb Dimitri, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Meg Goodwin, Laura Haupt Grapsy, Rebecca Henderson, Lisa Hoynoski, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Clara Kramer, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Mary Ann Maccoron, Carol Mallory, Tara Moss, Judy Ohl, Dana Osborne, Nick Reading, Pat Reading, John Redman, Amy Reed, Noah Richardson, Jen Semenco, Charlotte Tarr, Jim Thompson, **Gus Wilson**

## **FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026**

### **Sunday, January 11, 2026**

-Fellowship time following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

### **Monday, January 12, 2026**

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

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

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

### **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

10:00 AM -Prayer Shawl Ministry

7:00 – 8:30 PM -Confirmation Class

### **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

### **Friday, January 16, 2026**

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

### **Sunday, January 18, 2026 -Annual Report Deadline**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

1:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting/ Cake Bake Off

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

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42