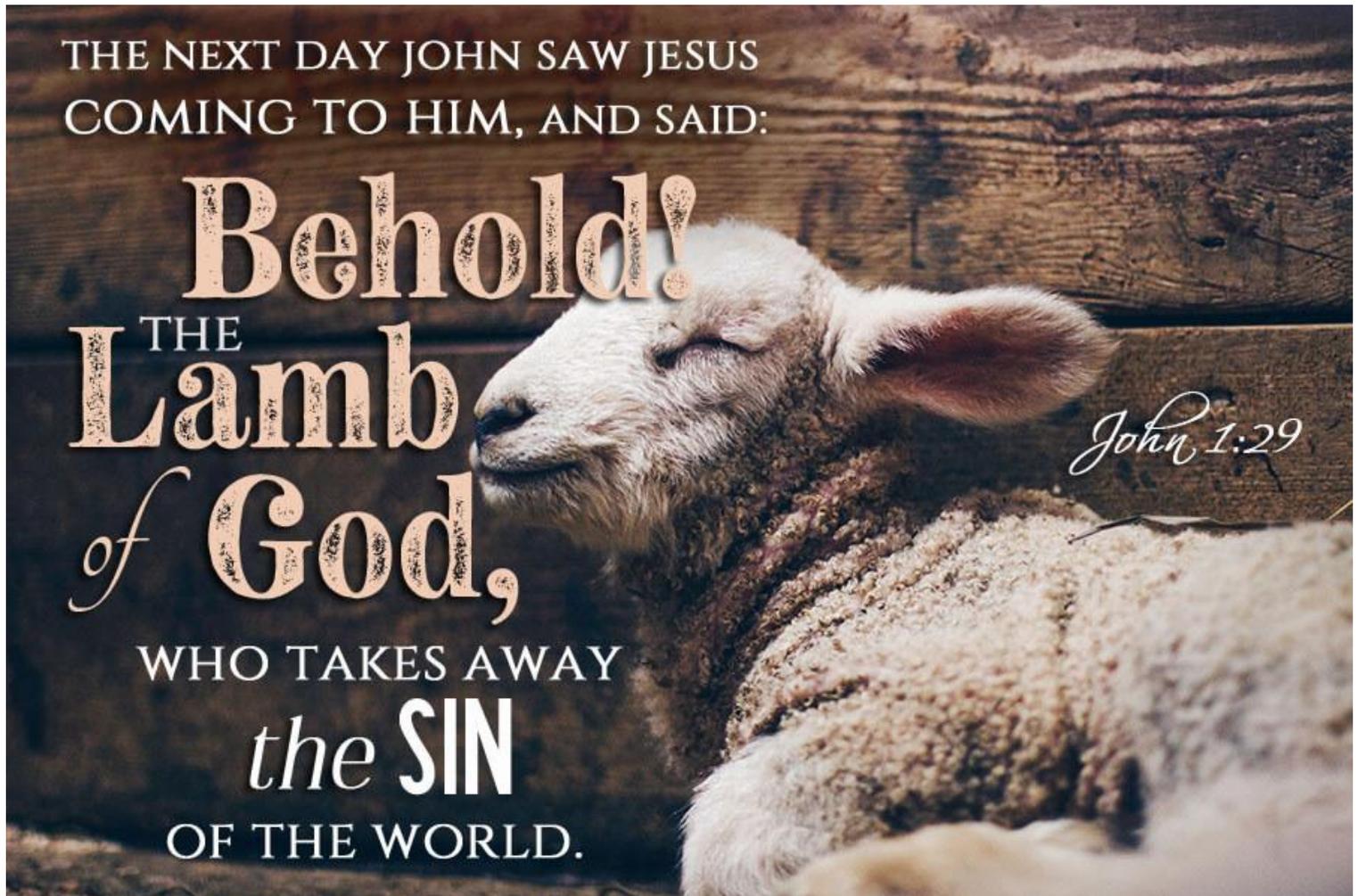


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**



**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)

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger  
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning, we remember in prayer **Salem, Donaldson** 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.

INVOCATION

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

PRELUDE

*The congregation may stand.*

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Can you hear God's call?  
**People: Christ's voice is heard far and near.**  
Pastor: Can you discern God's Word?  
**People: Christ calls one and all.**  
Pastor: God speaks of light and life.  
**People: Christ loves the mighty and the small.**  
Pastor: The Spirit breathes joy and compassion.  
**People: We are called into fellowship together. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 112....."You Servants of God"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Merciful God, when we succumb to despair and get lost in our fears of inadequacy, forgive us and remind us who we are and whose we are. We long to feel worthy of your love and to rest secure in your call to be a light to the nations. Remind us to speak words of hope like Isaiah, and words of encouragement like Paul. When others ask us if we have found the Lamb of God, give us the courage and the faith to boldly proclaim: "Come and see!" 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: People of God, what is the good news?  
**People: God's light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.**  
Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, 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, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Isaiah 49:1-7 (Page 629)

Psalm: Psalm 40:1-11 (Read responsively)

Lector: I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

**People: He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

Lector: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

**People: Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**

Lector: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

**People: Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

Lector: Then I said, "Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

**People: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."**

Lector: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD.

**People: I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.**

Lector: Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (Page 991)

Gospel: John 1:29-42 (Page 922)

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 and I Will Follow” -Written and Arranged by Tom Fettke

SERMON.....“Called to Serve”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

*The congregation may remain seated.*

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

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 458.....“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

*The congregation may stand.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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: Sing a new song as you leave this place.  
**People: We go in the love of the One who strengthens us.**  
Pastor: Heed the call that stirs within you.  
**People: We go in service of our call to follow Christ.**  
Pastor: Walk forth as saints of God.  
**People: We go in fellowship with the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: Bring hope to the ends of the earth.  
**People: We go to be a light to the nations.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 350.....“The Summons”

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 B. J. Beu from the 2026 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

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- The altar flowers are in loving memory Ellen Louise Clauser by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clauser and family.
- The bulletins are in memory of Ellen Reichert and Kenneth H. Kreager by Christopher and Amy Clauser.
- The additional flower arrangement is in honor of Mathias Nagle’s fetal surgery anniversary. On January 19, 2024, our “twice-born” baby was exposed to the world briefly while doctors operated on his spine. The daisy and yellow ribbon are symbols for spina bifida awareness.
- Offering on Sunday, January 11, 2025: \$2,407.00
- 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).**
- Please have all information for the 2025 Annual Report to the church office TODAY!** 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.
- “Souper” Bowl Food Drive: We are joining thousands of other churches and organizations to tackle hunger by collecting canned food and/or cash donations.** All donations stay right in Schuylkill County to help our neighbors in need through the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry. From now until February 8th, bring a monetary or food donation to the church and receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win three prizes generously donated by local businesses. Prizes will be drawn on 2/8. Contact Laura Carll with any questions at (484)269-4405.
- There will be a Consistory Meeting this Tuesday, January 20** at 7pm in the conference room.

**-A Cabinet Meeting will be held following worship next 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.

**-Fellowship Time: Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, February 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.) are greatly appreciated.

**-Boy Scout Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 8.** Members of the Cub Scout Pack 651 and Boy Scout Troop 651 will participate in Worship at 10:30am.

**-Recognition of 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries: On February 8, we will honor couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries in 2026.** If you are married 50 years, or you know of a couple in the church who is, please contact Kelly at the church office.

**-The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10.** 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 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. Please make sure the food items that you donate are not out of date. **We will be helping on Monday, February 16** beginning at 8:30am and **Friday, February 20** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

**-A traditional Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, February 18** at 7:00pm in person and live-streamed. The service will include the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. **Wednesday evening Lenten services will begin February 25 and continue through March 25** at 7pm. Please join us!

**-We will be collecting monetary donations on Sunday, February 22 to be used toward the Church World Service Blankets+ Program.** Blanket offering envelopes will be available by the bulletin basket on the table in the narthex.

**-The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 22 following worship.** In the event of worship cancellation, it will be held on **Sunday, March 1.** Annual reports will be available prior to the meeting.

**-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, *Dave Heim*, 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 Rodreguez

CANCER PATIENTS: *Al Basci*, Marie Bleu, Joe Branca, Bill Dobrotsky, 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 18**

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

1:00 – 6:00 PM -Cub Scout Cake Bake Off / Meeting

### **Monday, January 19 -Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

### **Tuesday, January 20**

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

### **Wednesday, January 21**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

### **Sunday, January 25**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

-Cabinet Meeting following worship

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

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23