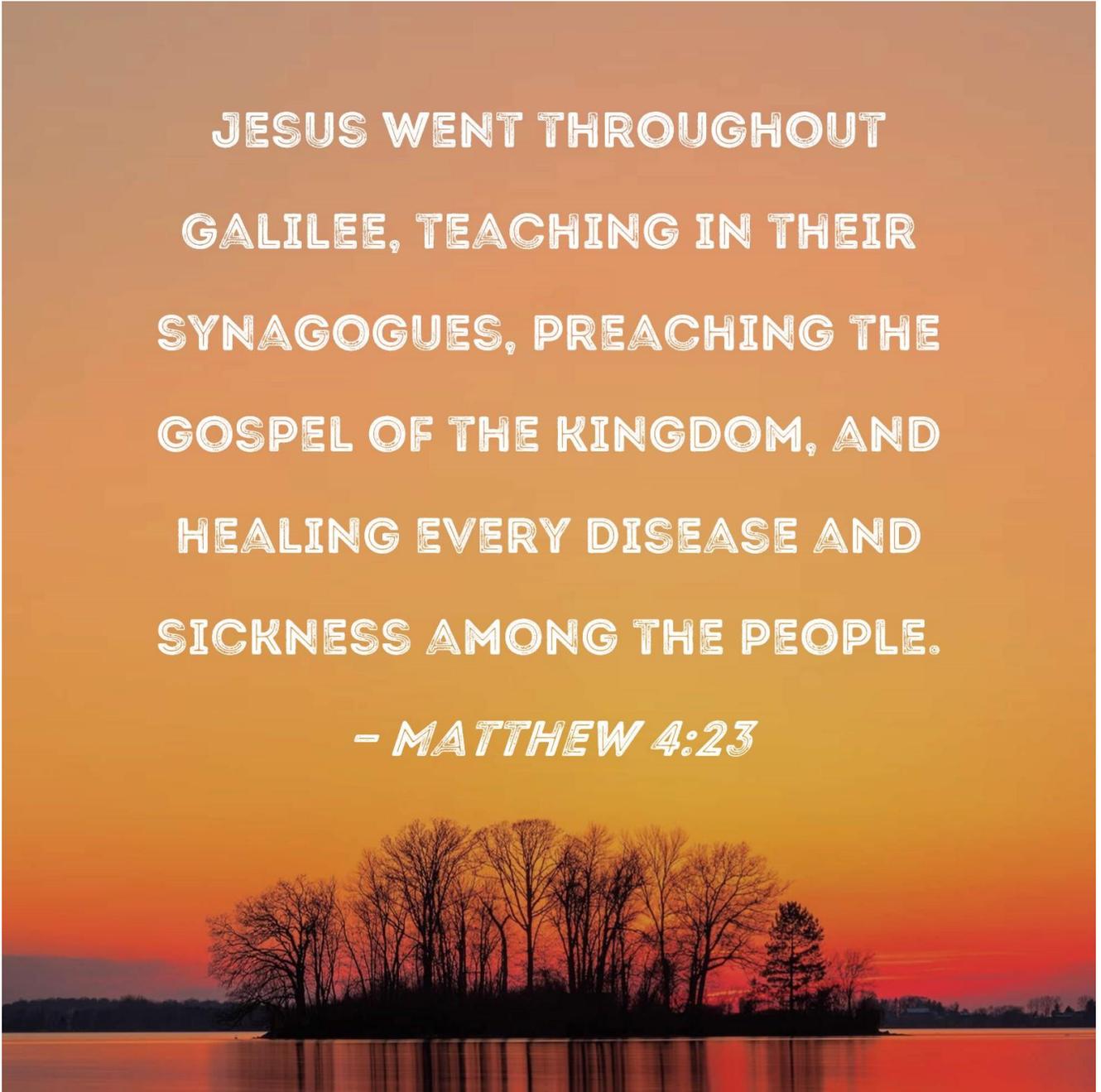


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, January 25, 2026

**JESUS WENT THROUGHOUT
GALILEE, TEACHING IN THEIR
SYNAGOGUES, PREACHING THE
GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, AND
HEALING EVERY DISEASE AND
SICKNESS AMONG THE PEOPLE.**

- MATTHEW 4:23



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 after the Epiphany

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, **the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.**

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: Friends of God, today Jesus calls to each of us: “Come! Follow me!”

People: The kingdom of heaven has come near.

Pastor: Some say, “But we are walking in darkness.”

People: In Christ, we have seen God’s light.

Pastor: Some say, “But divisions tear us apart.”

People: In Christ we are united in mind and purpose.

Pastor: Friends of God, today we gather to worship God and to follow Jesus.

People: The kingdom of heaven has come near. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 231.....“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Jesus, you come into our lives as a light shining in our darkness, and you call us to follow you. We long to seek you. We long to follow you. Forgive us when our losses and failures overwhelm us, when we are caught up in our disagreements and our desire to prevail, and when we are so busy with our responsibilities and successes that we don’t hear your call. Yet we have seen your great light. May we, like Peter and Andrew, James and John, step away from our darkness, conflicts, and devotion to our set ways. Help us hear your call, for your kingdom draws near. 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, Jesus is with us today, offering us God’s kingdom and healing.

People: God is our light and our salvation, everything we need to be fully alive.

Pastor: We have nothing to fear. We have been called and 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, Debra Koch

Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1-4 (Page 593)

Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (Read responsively)

Lector: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People: One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

Lector: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

People: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Lector: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

People: “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Lector: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Page 991)

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 (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....“Holy Place” -Words & Music by Keith Wilkerson and Arranged by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Follow to Serve”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 348.....“Softly and Tenderly”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)..United Church of Christ Statement of Faith– adapted by Robert V. Moss

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother,
and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being,
creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.
God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness
declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
God has come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.
God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.
God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.
God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. 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: May we leave worship today eager to follow Jesus. To those in darkness, let us proclaim:

People: God is our light and our salvation.

Pastor: To those in danger, let us proclaim:

People: God is our protection and shelter.

Pastor: To those caught in conflicts and divisions, let us proclaim:

People: Jesus Christ draws us together in mind and purpose.

Pastor: Following Jesus, may we know and share the message:

People: The kingdom of heaven has come near.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 345.....“Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult”

SILENT MEDITATION

Acolytes take the Light out into the world.

POSTLUDE

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

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in loving memory of John Tassone and Ellen Harig by Mary Jane & Tom Toomey, and Lucille Faust and Family.

-Offering on Sunday, January 18, 2025: \$6,613.78

-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). The February Communion Offering is designated to the CWS (Church World Service) Blanket offering.

-A Cabinet Meeting will be held following worship TODAY. 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.

-“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.

-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 50th 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.

-We are looking for kids who want to showcase their musical talents during Lent. Any kids who wish to perform can speak to Laura Carll.

-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, *family and friends of Gus Wilson, Ronnie Mengel*, Dave Heim, Bob Guers, Jane Warke, Keith McKevitt, Diona Sterner, Akbarov family, Shirley Williamson, Lynn Moyer, Jeffrey Paumen, Amy Koons, John Borchick, Mary Bartolet, Lester Knapp, Cathy Krause, Pat Guers, Don Rubinkam, Mathias Nagle, Aiden Rodreguez

CANCER PATIENTS: Al Basci, 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, *Nicole McFarland-Bish*, Tara Moss, Judy Ohl, Dana Osborne, Nick Reading, Pat Reading, John Redman, Amy Reed, Noah Richardson, Jen Semenco, Charlotte Tarr, Jim Thompson

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Sunday, January 25

-Cabinet Meeting following worship

Monday, January 26

6:00 – 9:00 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

7:00 PM -Confirmation Class

Wednesday, January 28

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 1

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12