

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Blessed are...

the poor in spirit

those who mourn
the meek

those who hunger and thirst for righteousness

the pure in heart

the merciful
the peacemakers

those who are persecuted
because of righteousness

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

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
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 **St. John, Tamaqua** 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 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: What does the Lord require of us?

People: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Pastor: With what shall we come before the Lord?

People: With speech that is gentle, and words that build up.

Pastor: How shall we live our faith?

People: With actions that bring peace, and works that lift up the lowly.

Pastor: Come and worship God in spirit and in truth. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 531.....“Rejoice in God’s Saints”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Holy God, when we feel beaten down by the world, free us from sorrow and grief. When we are wounded by careless words, help us refrain from lashing out in our suffering and hurting the ones we love. Forgive us when we fall short, and fill us with a hunger and a thirst for righteousness, that we may walk humbly in your ways and be a blessing to everyone we meet. 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: Jesus speaks words of blessing to those who struggle, offering joy and gladness each and every day.

People: No matter how we come before the Lord, the wisdom of the Holy One will be with us.

Pastor: Your being overflows with the very forgiveness that will allow you once again to walk humbly before our God.

People: Praise be to God! 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 Reber

Old Testament Lesson: Micah 6:1-8 (Page 805)

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 (Page 991)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12 (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.....“Humbly With You” – Words and Music by Kristie Braselton; arr. By Kyle Hill
Pam Clauser – Soloist

SERMON.....“Here and Now or the Here After”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 502.....“Be Thou My Vision”

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

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: 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: We remember that on the night of Jesus' betrayal and desertion.....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:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

We thank you O God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and let us show forth your praise in our lives; in Jesus name we pray. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Seek justice and discover God's blessings.

People: We will walk humbly with our God.

Pastor: Practice kindness and touch Christ's presence.

People: We will live in Christ's Way of peace.

Pastor: Share mercy and abide in the Holy Spirit.

People: We will leave footprints of light and compassion with every step we take.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 571....."Christ, You Call Us All to Service"

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 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 memory of June Rose Ohlinger by David, Pauline, Lauren and Trevor Smith.

-The bulletins are in honor of our Grandson, Luke Palerino's 4th Birthday on January 29 by Grandma and Pap Palerino.

-Offering on Sunday, January 25, 2025: -In person worship cancelled

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

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

-“Souper” Bowl Food Drive: We have one more week of our food drive and are challenging everyone to bring at least \$1 and/or 1 item of food next week, 2/8. Donations made during the week or on Sunday before the service will earn a ticket into our gift card raffle. Let's finish our food drive with a big SOUPER Bowl Sunday!

-Fellowship Time: Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service next Sunday, February 8. We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary on 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 next Sunday, February 8. Members of the Cub Scout Pack 651 and Boy Scout Troop 651 will participate in Worship at 10:30am.

-Next Sunday, February 8, we will honor couples celebrating their 50th wedding Anniversaries in 2026. We will also be celebrating February Baptismal Anniversaries.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room. The next meeting will be on Tues., 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.

-The Consistory will have the monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00pm in the conference room.

-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 be held February 25 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 Herbert "Herbie" H. Krause, Peggy Kooser, Nick Lengle*, 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 Rodriguez

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FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Sunday, February 1

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Monday, January 26

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting/ Court of Honor

Wednesday, February 4

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 8

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries, the Recognition of 50th Wedding Anniversaries, Scout Sunday and "Souper" Bowl of Caring
-Fellowship Hour following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

I Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20