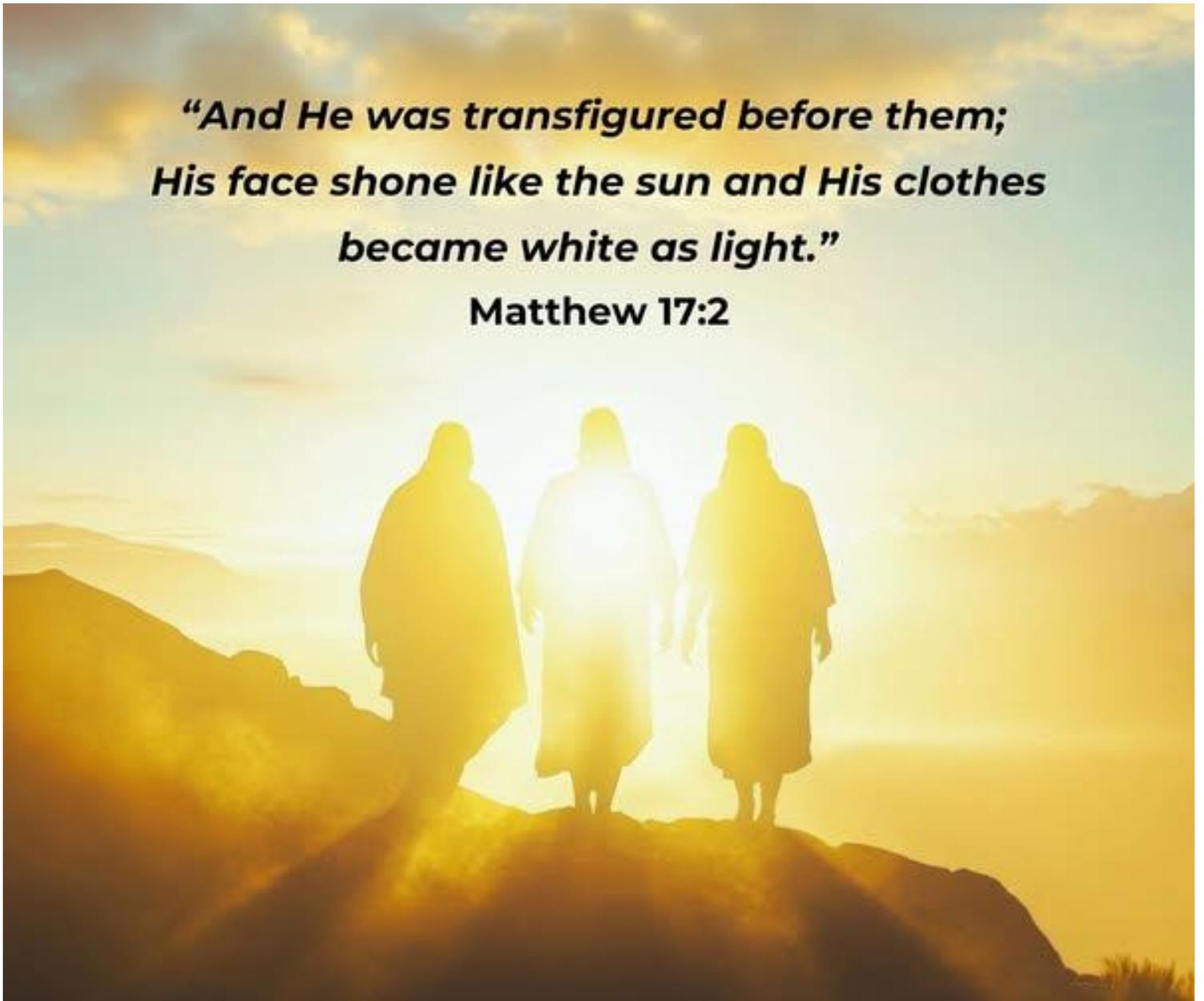


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Transfiguration Sunday, February 15, 2026

***“And He was transfigured before them;
His face shone like the sun and His clothes
became white as light.”***

Matthew 17:2



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

Transfiguration Sunday

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **Transfiguration Sunday**.

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: Climb the mountain of God.

People: We will watch and wait.

Pastor: Wait for God’s glory to shine like the sun.

People: Wait for Christ to reveal the heart of God.

Pastor: Wait to gain courage for the terror of the night.

People: Wait for the Spirit to dispel the darkness.

Pastor: Climb the mountain of God.

People: We will watch for things worth waiting for. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 48.....“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Mighty God, we yearn to be called on a journey to climb your mountain of love and light. We long for the courage of Moses as we wait for your appearance, even when your powerful presence is like a devouring fire. Forgive us when we turn from you, test our hearts, O God, that we might face our fears and prove ourselves worthy of your holy calling. 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: With tenderness and grace, Jesus shows us the power and the glory of God.

People: We walk in the assurance of God’s mercy and the promise of Christ’s strength for the journey.

Pastor: God accepts and loves us. 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: Exodus 24:12-18 (Page 67)
Psalm: Psalm 99 (Read responsively)

Lector: The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

People: The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

Lector: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

People: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Lector: Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

People: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

Lector: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

People: O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

Lector: Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:16-21 (Page 1062)

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 (Page 851)

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 Father, God Above” - Written and Arranged by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Hurry Up and Wait!”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 245.....“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

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: Climb the mountain of God.

People: We will walk in the light and truth of God.

Pastor: Do not fear the voice that calls from the heavens.

People: We will heed our call to follow Jesus.

Pastor: Draw near to God's holy fire.

People: We will bathe in the warmth of our God.

Pastor: Shine the light of Christ in the world.

People: We will be bold, for God goes with us.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 319....."Shine, Jesus, Shine"

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. 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 bulletins are in honor of Katie Fessler's birthday by Mom, Dad and Matt. (**Katie's birthday is Feb. 22nd**)

-Offering on Sunday, February 8, 2025: \$2,332.00

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

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

-The March Newsletter article deadline is TODAY.

-St. Paul's UCC will once again offer the opportunity to catch a 2026 Reading Phillies game this year on Saturday, July 18, 2026 against the Altoona Curve (Pirates). First pitch is at 6:45pm. Picnic table seats will be in the '67 Club along the 3rd base side ground level. There will be an AYCE Buffet for 2.5 hours starting a half an hour prior to game time (BBQ Ribs & Chicken, BBQ sandwiches, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Vegetable lasagna, Mac & Cheese, Baked Beans, Pasta and Potato Salad, Tossed Salad, Fruit, Cookies and Pepsi Products). There will be a "Mega Blast" Fireworks show immediately following the conclusion of the game. Tickets are \$43.00 per ticket. Children 4 years old and under are free of charge. **If interested, please sign-up by next Sunday, February 22** and make checks out to St. Paul's UCC or provide cash and give to Kelly Palerino. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin table. Think Spring! Hope to see you there!

-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 tomorrow** beginning at 8:30am and **this 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 meet this Tuesday, February 17 at 7:00pm in the conference room.

-A traditional Ash Wednesday Service will be held this 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.

-We will be collecting monetary donations next 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 next Sunday, February 22 following worship. In the event of worship cancellation, it will be held on **Sunday, March 1**. Printed copies of the annual report will be available at the meeting or on the table in the hallway by the offices.

-Wednesday evening Lenten services will be held at 7pm each week from February 25 through March 25. The services will be based on Adam Hamilton's Book, "Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion." Pastor Ken will also be leading lessons from the book each Sunday during Lent, at 9:15am in the downstairs Generations Adult Class in room B1. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please speak to Pastor Ken if you have any questions.

-A Cabinet Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, March 1. 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.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the **Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, March 3** at 7pm. Please speak to Laura Carll, any Sunday School teachers, Pastor Ken or the church office for you information.

-All kids are invited to join our Youth Group Escape Room on Saturday, March 7th from 4-7pm here at St. Paul's UCC. Solve puzzles as you race through the rooms to see who can finish first! Pizza will be provided. **An RSVP is appreciated by Sunday, March 1st** but is not required. We can't wait to see everyone here!

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

-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, March 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 Nancy Dewald.

-Mark your calendars! The annual **Everybody's Birthday Party** will be held on **Friday, March 13**. It will be potluck style, and Sunday School will provide a cake.

-On Sunday, March 15, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. OGHS, the refugee, relief and development offering of the UCC, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. Special envelopes will be placed on the bulletin table prior to that Sunday.

-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.

-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, including 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, Cathy Krause, John Borchick, Peggy Kooser, Nick Lengle, Ronnie Mengel, Dave Heim, Shirley Williamson

CANCER PATIENTS: Al Basci, 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, Jim Thompson

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Sunday, February 15 -Transfiguration

2:00 - 6:00 PM -Cub Scout Pine Wood Derby/ Meeting

Monday, February 16 -President's Day

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

Tuesday, February 17

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, February 18

7:00 PM -Ash Wednesday Worship Service
-Senior Choir Rehearsal following worship

Friday, February 20

12:30 PM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

Sunday, February 22 -First Sunday in Lent -Deadline to sign-up for the Baseball outing

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the CWS Blanket Offering
-Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Ash Wednesday- February 18, 2026

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

First Sunday in Lent- February 22, 2026

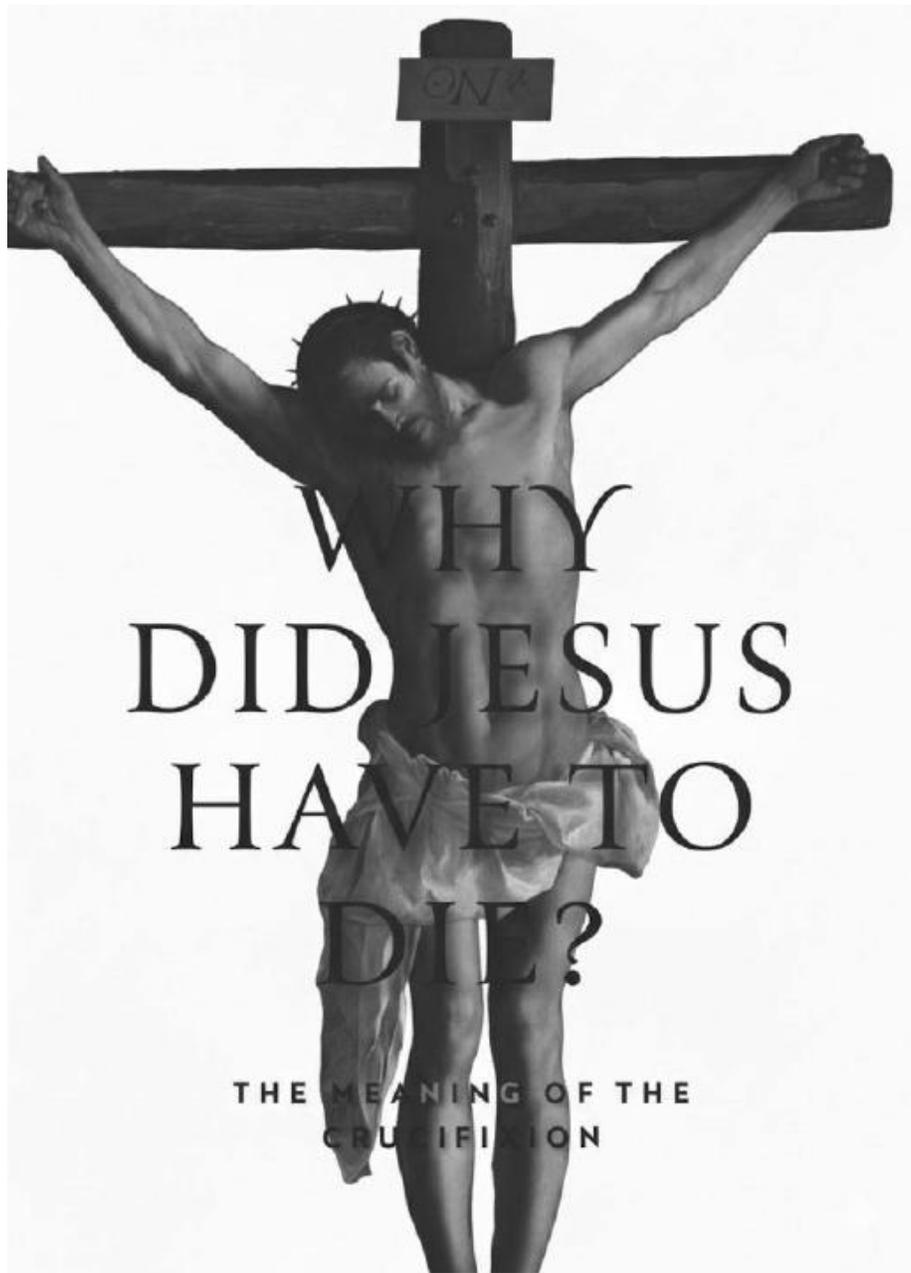
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

PLEASE JOIN US!



St. Paul's UCC Wednesday Lenten Worship Services

February 25 through March 25 – each week at 7pm

The services, led by Pastor Ken, will be based on Adam Hamilton's Book,
"Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion."

Pastor Ken will also be leading lessons from the book each Sunday during Lent
at 9:15am in the downstairs Generations Adult Class in room B1.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.