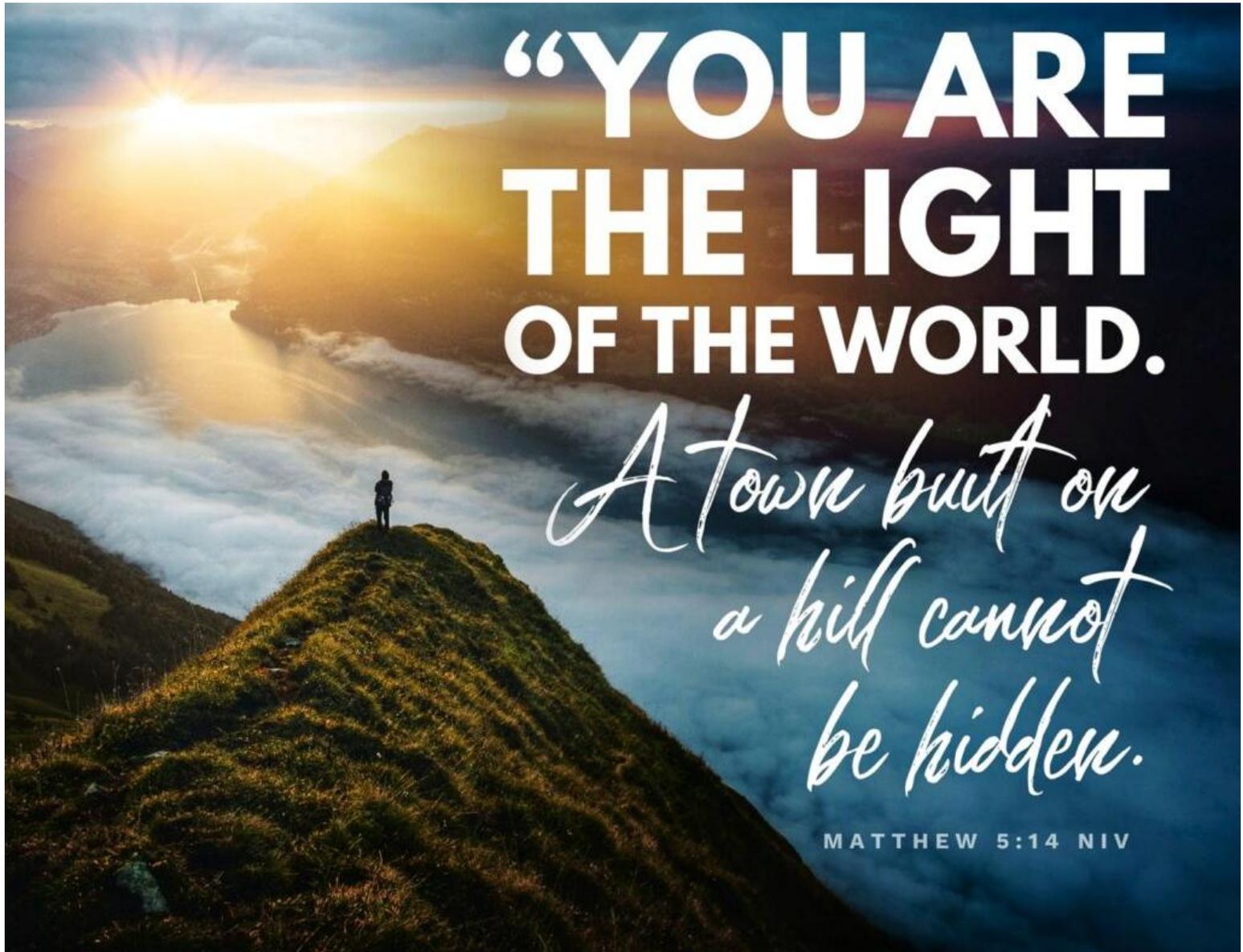


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, February 8, 2026



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
Website: www.summerhillucc.com
Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries, Recognition of 50th Wedding Anniversaries,
Souper Bowl of Caring Collection and Scout Sunday**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. John ELCA & UCC, Auburn** 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.

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF SCOUTS AND LEADERS OF TROOP & PACK 651

Jason Wood – Boy Scout Scoutmaster

Kevin Huneke – Cub Scout Cubmaster

PRESENTATION OF COLORS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Senior Patrol Leader: Connie Palerino

Assistant Senior Patrol Leader: Dominik Minchoff

Color Guard: McKinley Hoover and Sam Krawchack

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who delight in the Lord!

People: We come to this place, where generations before us have gathered.

Pastor: Here we remember the light of God that shines in our lives.

People: Here we allow God’s light to shine through us.

Pastor: Let us worship our radiant God.

People: Praise the Lord! Happy are we who delight in the Lord! Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 96.....“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Merciful God, forgive us when we ignore you or your lessons for our lives. Forgive us for allowing oppression and discord to flourish. Forgive us for not feeding those who are hungry. Forgive us for not providing shelter to those who have no place to lay down at night. Forgive us for not repairing the broken places in our community. O Lord, forgive us and then help us do your work of bringing about peace and healing. Shine your light through us, so that all may come to know your abundant love. 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

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.....Lectors (Scouts): Brody Brand, Austin Klepsch and Dominik Minchoff

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-9a (Page 637)
Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (Page 992)
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:13-20 (Page 838)

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.....“Rejoice in the Lord Always!”

Words adapted from Psalm 96 by Nan Allen; Music and Arrangement by Dennis Allen

SERMON.....“Don’t Give Up”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

Scouts assisting as Ushers: Lucas Ebling and Tanner Wood

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 420.....“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

CELEBRATION OF FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Bryant Lawrence, son of Zachary Bitting and Jessica Borden
Joseph Francis, son of Joseph and Breanna Bassininsky

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.

CELEBRATION OF 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Lucinda Nagle *(June 26, 1976)*

Dale and Judy Frantz *(October 2, 1976)*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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: Go into the world to announce the love of Go, which brings forth healing and restoration.

People: May the light of Christ guide our way.

Pastor: Go with the power of the Holy Spirit to do the good work of God.

People: We go with the blessing of the one who has called us.

BENEDICTION

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

RETIRE THE COLORS (Connor Palerino, McKinley Hoover and Sam Krawchack)

CLOSING HYMN NO. 559.....“Here I Am, Lord”

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 Karin Ellis from the 2026 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. Portions reprinted by permission from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, © 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

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-The altar flowers are in memory of Mamie and Ernie Phillips by the Earl Phillips Family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Mamie and Ernie Phillips by the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

-Offering on Sunday, February 1, 2025: \$4,870.00

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

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

-Today is the last day to support the "Souper" Bowl Food Drive: Donations made prior to the start of today's service will earn a ticket into our gift card raffle!

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

-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 February 22nd** and up make checks out to St. Paul's UCC or provide cash and give to Kelly Palerino. Think Spring! Hope to see you there!

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this Tuesday, February 10 at 10:00am. 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 March Newsletter article deadline is next Sunday, February 15.

-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.

-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 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 March 1st but is not required. We can't wait to see everyone here!

-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.

-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, *family and friends of Marie Blew, Cathy Krause, John Borchick, Peggy Kooser, Nick Lengle, Ronnie Mengel, Dave Heim, Shirley Williamson*

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, FEBRUARY 8

Sunday, February 8 -“Souper” Bowl of Caring Deadline

-Fellowship Hour following worship

Monday, February 9

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

Tuesday, February 10

10:00 AM -Prayer Shawl Ministry

7:00 PM -Confirmation Class

Wednesday, February 11

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, February 14 -Valentine’s Day

Sunday, February 15 -Transfiguration

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

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

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

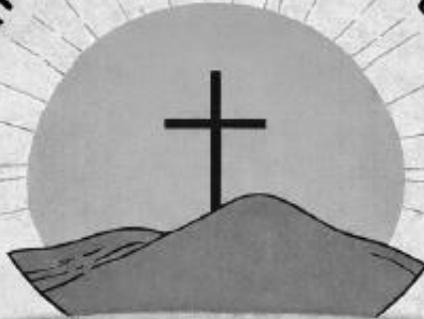
Matthew 17:1-9

The Scout Oath



On my honor, I will do my best.
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the scout law.
To help other people at all times.
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake and morally straight.

SUMMER HILL YOUTH GROUP



BIBLE-THEMED

ESCAPE ROOM NIGHT!

Can you solve the puzzles and
escape the room?

MARCH 7, 2026
4:00PM - 7:00PM

PIZZA
PROVIDED!

ST. PAUL'S SUMMER HILL UCC
1235 SUMMER HILL RD
AUBURN, PA 17922

RSVP APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED
BY MARCH 1ST AT:
LAURA.CARLL@YAHOO.COM