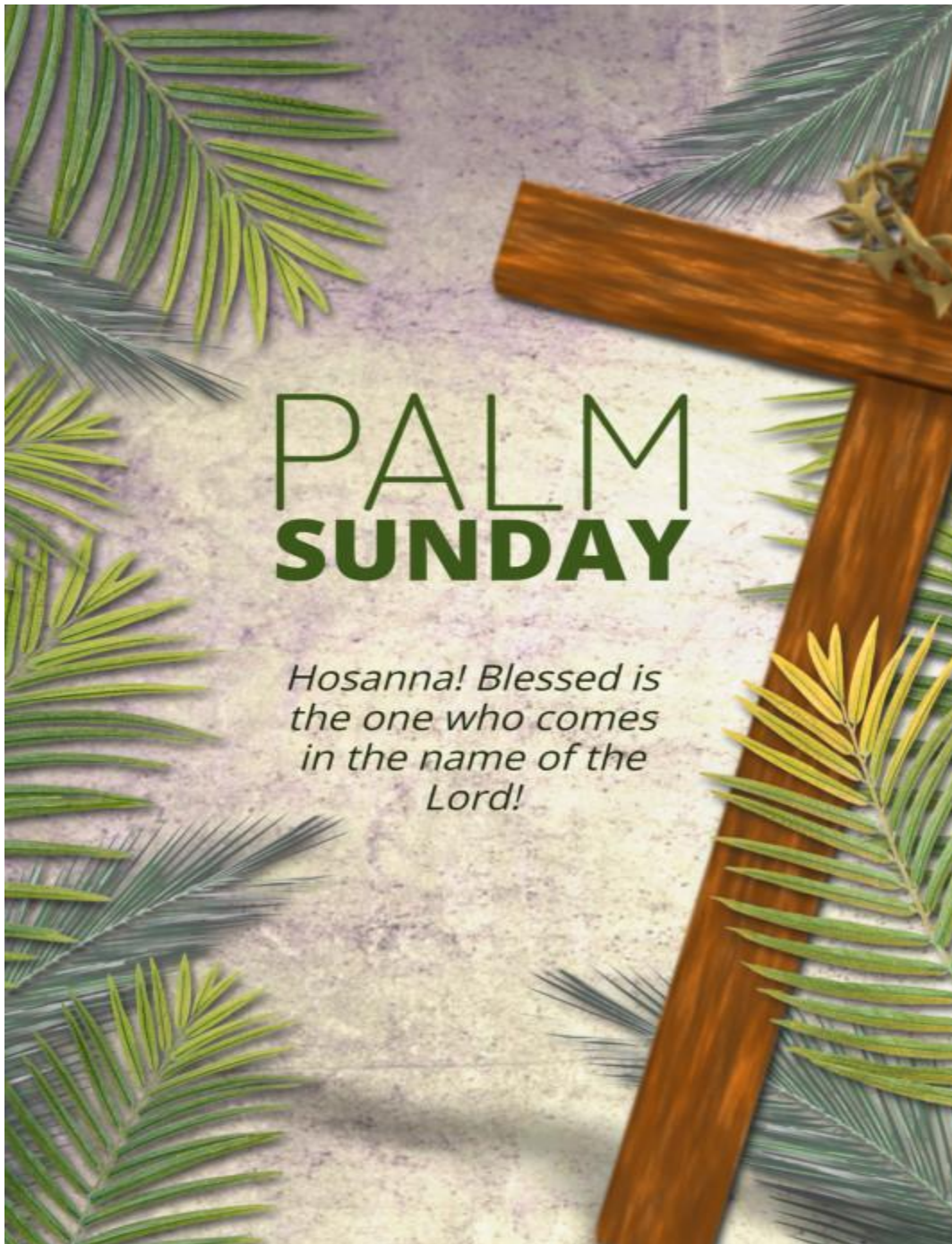


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, March 29, 2026**



**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)

**Palm/ Passion Sunday, Blessing of the Palms,  
Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Confirmation Class of 1976,  
Special Music by the Sunday School  
and the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering (Pastor’s Emergency Relief Fund)**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Palm/Passion Sunday** 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.

**Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 1976: Diane (Peiffer) Bechtel, Edwin Ebling, Dean Edwards, Robin (Arndt) Ferguson, Lynwood Fessler, Linda (Berkheiser) Honyara, Patti Jo Moyer, Kevin Reber, Lori (Schappell) Renno and Karen (Corondi) Shultz**

LENTEN CANDLES

Focus: The Shadow of Death: The final smaller candle is put out as the cross looms.

Scripture: “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)

Pastor: The celebration of palms fades into the silence of the garden. The world has done its worst; the traps are set, and the hour of darkness has arrived.

**People: We stand at the edge of the deep shadow, knowing our sin has brought us to this place.**

Pastor: As we extinguish this final smaller candle, only the Christ Candle remains, burning alone in a world that has tried to put out His light.

*[Extinguish one candle. Do not light it again until Easter]*

RESPONSIVE HYMN NO. 354.....“Just As I Am” (verse 6)

*Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

INVOCATION

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

PRELUDE

*The congregation may stand.*

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Give thanks to God, who is truly good.

**People: Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Praise Christ, whose love abounds with grace.

**People: Hosanna in the highest!**

Pastor: Welcome the Spirit with songs of praise.

**People: Hosanna in the highest! Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 265.....“All Glory, Laud and Honor”

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Pastor: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

CELEBRATION OF 50TH CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Faithful One, we want to be as faithful to you as you are to us. Help us sing your praises joyously and proudly, even when the jeering crowds frighten us. Walk with us in moments of celebration and times of trouble. Guide our steps, save our lives, and help us bring your message of love to the world.**

**Hosanna, O faithful One; hosanna in the highest. 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**

SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN.....

“It's Jesus”- Words and Music by Chris Womack; Arranged by Barney Robertson

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Isaiah 50:4-9a (Page 631)

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (**Read responsively**)

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**People: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

Lector: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

**People: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

Lector: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**People: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

Lector: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**People: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Lector: Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!

**People: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

Lector: The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

**People: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.**

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11 (Page 1023)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11 (Page 855)

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.....“*Comes the King*”  
Words and Music by Pete Carlson and Regi Stone, Arranged by Dave Williamson

SERMON.....“*In the Face of Adversity*”

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*The congregation may remain seated.*

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

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 267.....“*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*”

*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

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: With songs in our heart,  
**People: We move toward the cross.**  
Pastor: May God bless us  
**People: With strength for the journey ahead.**  
Pastor: Go with God,  
**People: We go knowing Christ is on the journey with us.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 268.....“Ride On, Ride On in Majesty!”

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 Mary J. Scifres 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. 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 altar flowers and bulletins are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Reber by the family.

-The Palms are in memory of Bill and Beaty Spotts, Billy Spotts, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Trumbo, Sr. and Jacques Ebling by Verna Ebling and family, and Donna Spotts and family.

-Offering on Sunday, March 22, 2025: \$2,573.00  
-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2026: \$3,368.52

**-The March Communion Offering is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. The April Communion Offering is designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries.**

**-We will collect the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering TODAY which is designated to the Pastor’s Emergency Relief Fund.** Special envelopes are in the basket on the bulletin table.

**-Church Cleaning Position Available- Seeking Responsible and Dedicated Cleaner: St. Paul's UCC is looking for a reliable individual to assist with cleaning.** Duties include sweeping, mopping, dusting, and ensuring all common areas are presentable for services and events. These areas primarily include the sanctuary, vestibule, bathrooms, classrooms, conference room, fellowship hall, kitchen. Attention to detail and a commitment to maintaining a welcoming environment are essential. Flexible hours are available. Previous cleaning experience is preferred but not required. If interested, please contact the church office for more details and to apply.

**-This Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 6:00pm, we will gather in the fellowship hall for our version of the Seder meal.** Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin table in the narthex to help in preparing.

**-A Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held this Friday, April 3 at 7:00pm.**

**-Easter Sunday, April 5:** We will rejoice and celebrate Christ's resurrection beginning with our **Sunrise Service** at 6:30am on Easter morning. An **Easter Breakfast** will be held in the fellowship hall at approximately 7:15am followed immediately by a worship service with Holy Communion around the breakfast table (8:15am). Sunday School will be held at 9:15am, followed by the **10:30am Easter Worship Service** with Holy Communion. Please sign up for the Easter breakfast to help in planning.

**-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, April 12.** 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. Donations of treats (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins, etc.) are greatly appreciated.

**-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. **We will be helping on Monday, April 13 beginning at 8:30am and Friday, April 17 beginning at 12pm.** Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or 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, April 14.** 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.

**-There will be a Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on Tuesday, April 14** at 7:00pm in downstairs room B1. Anyone interested in helping at VBS, which will be held June 22-26 is invited to attend. Please speak to Bill Reber for more information.

**-The Consistory will have the monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 21** at 7:00pm in the conference room.

**-St Paul's UCC will once again have a YARD SALE on Saturday, May 2** from 8am to 1pm. There will be indoor and outdoor spaces available for members of the church and their friends. Spaces will cost \$10 and can be paid to Trevor Smith or the church office. In addition, we will also be having a small concession stand and bake sale. **We are kindly asking for donations of food items and baked goods, as well as volunteers to help in the kitchen.** Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex for vendors as well as food donations/volunteers. Flyers will be available for advertisement. **The deadline to sign up will be Sunday, April 26th.**

**-It's soon mowing season! Volunteers will be needed to mow the church lawn-** a zero turn mower is provided. A sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Please contact the church office for more information.

**-Prayer Concern Privacy:** As Christians, we fervently believe in the power of prayer — that’s why we include prayer concerns in the weekly bulletin and lift folks up in prayer during worship! That said, the Consistory respectfully asks that before you add somebody to the prayer list or bring up their name during worship, please obtain that person’s permission. We take medical privacy very seriously and make every effort to respect the wishes of individuals who do not want to be named publicly in a bulletin or live-streamed worship service. Thank you for your cooperation!

**-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, *Addison Faith Dodson, Galen Conover, Bill Cleary,* Cassie Wolfe, Amber Chick, Mike Fessler, Keith McKevitt, Nancy VanDeest, Ernest Towne, Cathy Krause, John Borchick, Ronnie Mengel, Dave Heim, Shirley Williamson

CANCER PATIENTS: Al Basci, Joe Branca, Bill Dobrotsky, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Meg Goodwin, Laura Haupt Grapsy, Rebecca Henderson, Lisa Hoynoski, Donna Jenan, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Clara Kramer, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Mary Anne Maccarone, Carol Mallory, Nicole McFarland-Bish, Tara Moss, Judy Ohl, Dana Osborne, Nick Reading, Pat Reading, Amy Reed, Noah Richardson, Jen Semenco, Jim Thompson

## **FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 29**

**Sunday, March 29 -Palm/Passion Sunday**

**Monday, March 30**

5:30 – 7:00 PM -Confirmation Class

**Wednesday, April 1**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Maundy Thursday, April 2**

6:00 PM -Seder Meal with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Good Friday, April 3**

7:00 PM -Tenebrae Worship Service

**Holy Saturday, April 4**

## **Easter Sunday, April 5**

6:30 AM -Easter Outdoor Sunrise Service

7:15 AM -Easter Breakfast

8:15 AM -Table Service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion (Fellowship Hall)

9:15 AM -Sunday School

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

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

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

## **QR Code for Online Giving**

Our members, friends, and visitors give their offerings and donations to the church in many different ways, including electronically via apps like Tithe.ly and bank transfers. To accommodate the varied ways of giving, we have an offering box at the rear of the sanctuary for placing Sunday morning offerings as you enter or leave. We will also have ushers accept offerings during the Hymn of Reflection after the sermon as another option. Thank you for your financial support of the ministries of St. Paul's and your faithful giving in response to what God has given us!

