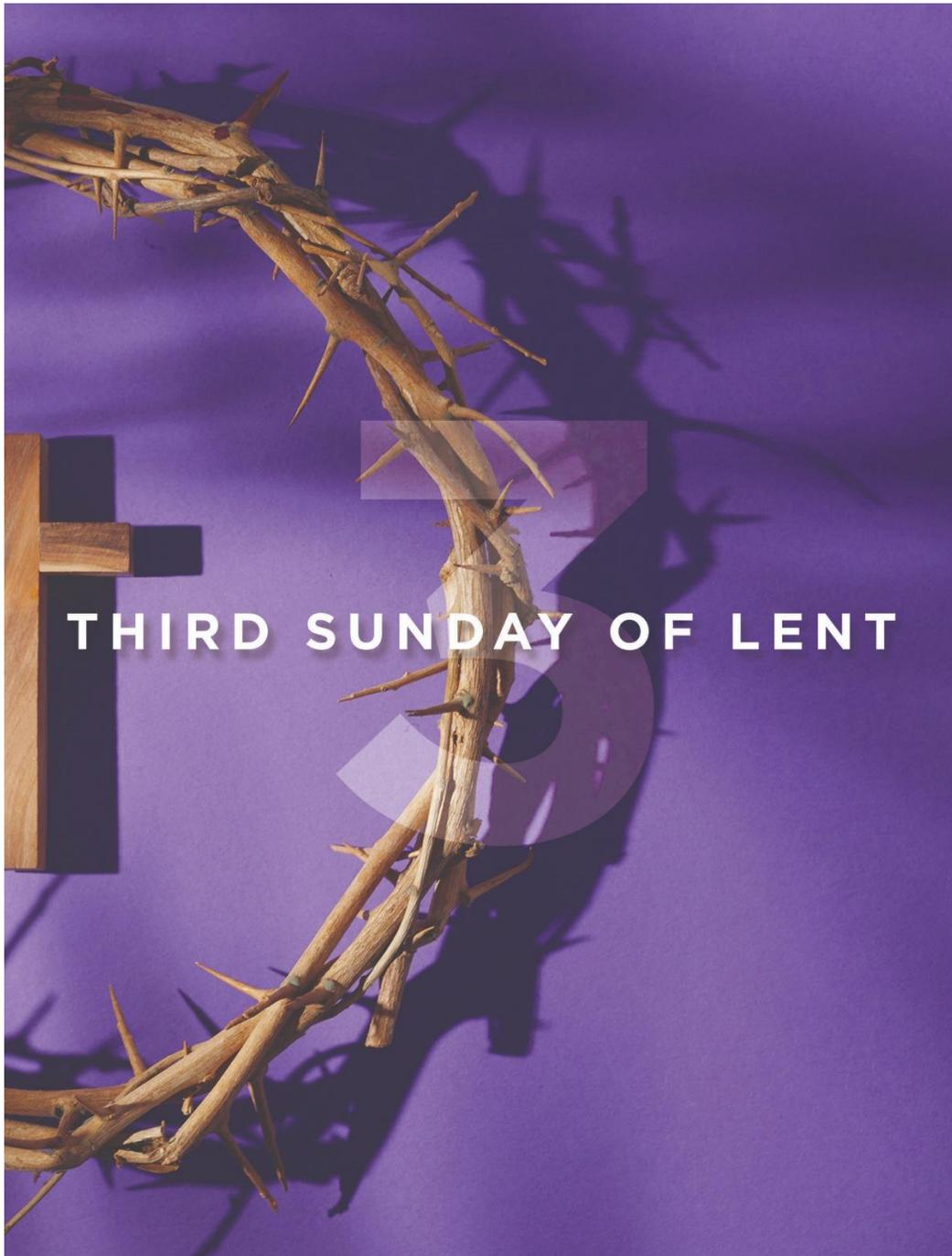


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, March 8, 2026**



**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](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)  
**Livestream:** [www.facebook.com/summerhillucc](http://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

**Third Sunday in Lent  
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries**

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, **UCC Disaster 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.

LENTEN CANDLES

Focus: The Shadow of Injustice: The world’s systems of power rejecting the King of Peace.

Scripture: “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed.” (Psalm 2:2)

Pastor: Jesus stood for the poor, the broken, and the outcast. The powers of this world saw His mercy as a threat and His love as a rebellion.

**People: We confess our silence in the face of injustice and our participation in the shadows of this world.**

Pastor: As we extinguish this third light, we acknowledge the pain of a world that tries to silence the voice of the oppressed.

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

RESPONSIVE HYMN NO. 354.....“Just As I Am” (verse 3)

*Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, 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: Worship God with joy and thanksgiving.

**People: Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

Pastor: We are the sheep of God’s pasture.

**People: We are the lambs of God’s flock.**

Pastor: Come! Let us worship the Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 501.....“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Dear Lord, the wellspring of salvation, quench our thirst this day. When our souls are parched, we long to taste the healing waters of your grace. When our spirits are as dry as desert sands, we yearn to find renewal in the well of your mercy and your love. When we wander from you, shower us in your living water that we may be washed clean in the river of your forgiveness and your grace. 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: Those whose souls drink of Christ’s living water will never thirst again.

**People: Those who refresh themselves in Christ will have a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**

Pastor: God’s love is poured out for all. Rejoice, for you 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, Brook Koch-Guers

Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7 (Page 60)

Epistle: Romans 5:1-11 (Page 980)

Gospel: John 4:5-42 (Page 925)

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.....“Come to the Cross” with “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”  
Written by Nan and Dennis Allen; Arranged by Dennis Allen”

SERMON

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

*The congregation may remain seated.*

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

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 446.....“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

CELEBRATION OF MARCH BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Kylah Leigh, daughter of Charles and Kayla Ferguson

Kaycee Layne, daughter of Charles and Kayla Ferguson

*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.*

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: We have encountered the living God through the love of the living Christ.

**People: We have been refreshed by living water.**

Pastor: Go now to live in the hope this encounter inspires and be water bearers to a dry and parched world.

**People: We go knowing that the God of love and hope goes before us.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 264.....“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

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 altar flowers and bulletins are in loving memory of Kenneth Kreager by Linda, Dick, Christopher and Amy Clauser.

-Offering on Sunday, March 1, 2025: \$3,048.00

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

**-The March Communion Offering is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry.**

**-Fellowship Time: Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our worship service TODAY.**

**-You still have the opportunity to sign up TODAY for the Reading Phillies game on Saturday, July 18** 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. Please make checks out to St. Paul's UCC or provide cash and give to Kelly Palerino. Think Spring! Hope to see you there!

**-Our Easter flower sale order forms are available on the table in the back. This year we are once again offering a variety of beautiful Easter flowers.** (Prices: Easter Lily- \$15.50; Tulip- \$12.05; Daffodil- \$12.50) Orders and money may be given to Lori Moyer, Ardith Moyer or dropped/ mailed to the church office. Money is due at the time you place your order. **The final deadline for ordering is next Sunday, March 15.**

-If you would like to learn about our Sunday School program, come to the **Board of Christian Education meeting tomorrow, March 9** at 7pm in the conference room. All are welcome!

**-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this Tuesday, March 10** from 10am-12noon in the conference room. 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.

**-Join us this Wednesday, March 11 for our evening Lenten service which will be held at 7pm. Services will continue each week through March 25.** The services are based on Adam Hamilton's Book, "Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion." Pastor Ken is also 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.

-The annual **Everybody's Birthday Party** will be held **this Friday, March 13** beginning at 6pm. It will be potluck style, and Sunday School will provide a cake to celebrate. Please join us for this time of fun and fellowship!

**-Next 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 are on the bulletin table.

**-The Cabinet Meeting will be held following worship next Sunday, March 15.** 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.

**-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, March 16 beginning at 8:30am and Friday, March 20 beginning at 12pm.** Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

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

**-Your Help is Needed for the Outdoor Spring Clean-up!** An outdoor grounds clean-up will be held on **Saturday, March 21** beginning at 8:00am. ALL HANDS ON DECK – Children would be great. Please bring gloves, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows.

**-There will be a Maundy Thursday Worship Service Seder Meal on April 2** at 6:00 pm. Although we will try to make room at the table for anyone who shows up, we ask that you please sign up to help us plan this special service. **Please add your name and how many are attending on the sign-up sheet by Sunday, March 22.** This special service is a modified version of the Jewish Passover Seder Meal, recalling the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples before his betrayal, arrest, trial, and ultimately his crucifixion.

**-There will be an egg hunt hosted by the Sunday School on Palm Sunday, March 29.** Children should arrive at 9:15 for a short lesson with their Sunday School class. All classes will participate in the egg hunt together following their lesson. There will be goody bags after the egg hunt, so please make sure you get one from Amy Zimmerman. **There is a plastic egg donation sign-up sheet on the table by the bulletin basket. PLASTIC EGGS ONLY-** please no real eggs. They may be filled or not, and can be placed in downstairs room B-1 **by Sunday, March 22.**

**-Prior to Saturday, March 28: Please remove any winter arrangements from the cemetery** that you would like to keep. Thank you.

**-The fifth Sunday Offering on Sunday, March 29 is designated to the Pastor's Emergency Relief Fund.**

**-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.**

**-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, *Keith McKeivitt, Nancy VanDeest, family and friends of Russell Shantz, family and friends of Linda Angstadt,* 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, John Redman, Amy Reed, Noah Richardson, Jen Semenco, Jim Thompson

### **FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

**Sunday, March 8 -Third Sunday in Lent -Daylight Saving Time Begins -Deadline for Baseball game**

-Fellowship time following worship

3:00 PM -Cub Scout Banquet

### **Monday, March 9**

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

7:00 PM -Board of Christian Education Meeting

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

### **Tuesday, March 10**

10:00 AM -Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 11**

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

### **Friday, March 13**

6:00 PM -Everybody's Birthday Party

### **Saturday, March 14 \*Pastor Ken's Birthday!!**

### **Sunday, March 15 -Easter flower order deadline**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the One Great Hour of Sharing offering/ Cabinet Meeting following worship

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

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41