

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, April 12, 2026



Blessed

are those who
have not seen
and yet have
believed

John 20:29

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

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Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

**Second Sunday of Easter
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 **St. John’s, Schuylkill Haven** 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.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: You who have touched the wounds of the world, You who have been wounded by the world,

People: Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God,

Pastor: We have not seen you, Risen One. We have not touched you,

People: But we believe you are our Lord and our God.

Pastor: You are our refuge in hurt and pain, You are the path of life.

People: You are our Lord and our God! Alleluia! Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 289.....“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Savior, sometimes we are bold and sure that you are the Living One who defeated death and destruction for us all. Sometimes we wonder at the ancient stories of your resurrection, and we are not so sure that things happened the way stories tell them. Forgive our doubts and bless us with your peace. Bless us with the joy and assurance of your presence, wherever we are in our journey of faith. In your compassionate name, we pray. 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: “Peace be with you!” Jesus said to his disciples,

People: To both those who saw and believed and the one who questioned.

Pastor: Today Jesus Christ also bestows his peace and presence upon us: “Peace be with you!” 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

Book of Acts Acts 2:14a, 22-32 (Page 948)
Psalm: Psalm 16 (Read responsively)

Lector: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
People: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."
Lector: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.
People: Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

Lector: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
People: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.
Lector: I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
People: I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Lector: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.
People: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.
Lector: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9 (Page 1058)
Gospel: John 20:19-31 (Page 945)

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.....“Beyond the Cross” - Soloists: Lori Moyer and Jeff Palerino
Words by Mike Harland; Music & Arranged by Jeff Lippencott

SERMON.....“The Power of Touch”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 299.....“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

CELEBRATION OF APRIL BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES
Ella Sophia, daughter of Wade and Diona Sterner

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: Jesus called out to his disciples, "Peace be with you!"

People: We praise Jesus, our Lord and our God, for this peace.

Pastor: Jesus breathed upon the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit!"

People: We praise Jesus, our Lord and our God, for the Holy Spirit who accompanies us.

Pastor: As disciples of Jesus Christ, go out into the world with power—to forgive, to touch wounds with healing hands.

People: We go to live out the love, life, and power of our Lord and our God.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 310....."Thine Is the Glory"

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 Rebecca Gaudino 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 Beatrice Spotts and Lurda Reber by the family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Beatrice Spotts and Lurda Reber by the grandchildren.

-Offering on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2025: \$6,078.00

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

-The April Communion Offering is designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries.

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

-A Progressive Dinner will be held here at St. Paul's on Saturday, May 16th beginning at 6pm. We are looking for 9 couples or pairs of 2 to prepare 3 Appetizers, 3 Dinners and 3 Deserts. (1 Dish Per Couple/Pair) A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin table in the narthex. If interested, sign your name and select an available category. Please speak to Chris Branca for more information (Cell: 609-713-8852).

-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 tomorrow, April 13 beginning at 8:30am and this Friday, April 17** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this Tuesday, April 14 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.

-There will be a Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting this Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00pm in downstairs room B1. VBS will be held June 22 - 26 from 6pm-8:30pm each day and the theme will be Rainforest Falls- Exploring the Nature of God. Anyone interested in helping is invited to attend the meeting. Please speak to Bill Reber for more information.

-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.

-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 are available for advertisement. **The deadline to sign up will be Sunday, April 26th.** On Friday, May 1, the church will be open from 9am to 1pm and 3pm to 7pm for those that have an indoor space to set up their items. Food and bake sale items can also be dropped off during these hours. On Saturday, the church will open at 6:30am for outdoor setup and food preparations. Thank you for your support!

-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 bulletin 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, **Lee Miller**, Deb Clauser, Carol Boyer, Addison Faith Dodson, Galen Conover, Bill Cleary, Cassie Wolfe
CANCER PATIENTS: Al Basci, Joe Branca, Bill Dobrolsky, 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, APRIL 12

Sunday, April 12

-Fellowship time following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Monday, April 13

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

10:30 AM -Pastor Ken conducts Chapel Service at Luther Ridge

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, April 14

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM -Prayer Shawl Committee Meeting

7:00 PM -Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

Wednesday, April 15

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 17

12:00 PM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

Sunday, April 19

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

2:00 PM -Cub Scout Cake Drop-off

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

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 Offertory 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!

A poster for "Rainforest Falls" VBS. At the top, it says "Save the Date!". Below that is a large, stylized title "RAINFOREST FALLS" with a waterfall in the background. Underneath the title is a banner that says "Exploring the Nature of God". To the right of the banner is a cartoon monkey. Below the poster is a white box with a black border containing text and handwritten information.

This summer, explore the nature of God
at Rainforest Falls VBS!

What: Vacation Bible School

When: June 22- June 26

Time: 6:00 to 8:30

Where: St. Paul's UCC

Register at: Details to follow