

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, April 19, 2026

**THAT SAME DAY TWO OF
THEM WERE GOING TO A
VILLAGE CALLED EMMAUS,
ABOUT SEVEN MILES FROM
JERUSALEM.**

- LUKE 24:13

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

Third Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. John’s, St. Clair** 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: Even if we feel abandoned and alone,

People: Christ meets us here.

Pastor: Even when we become lost and disoriented,

People: Christ rescues us in our need.

Pastor: Even when our hearts are touched by the frost,

People: Christ warms our spirits.

Pastor: Even when all light has faded to black,

People: Christ illumines our Way.

Pastor: Let us rejoice and worship our Risen Lord! Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 312.....“Christ Is Alive”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of Easter hope, when our gaze is cast within, it is easy to miss your presence in our midst. Forgive us when we fail to recognize you on the road. Touch our minds with your wisdom and truth, and set our hearts on fire with your holy love. During times of confusion and doubt, open our eyes to your life-giving presence, and rekindle our Easter faith. 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: In the resurrection of Jesus, we find hope and an imperishable seed of faith.

People: Risen with Christ, we are born anew.

Pastor: God’s promises are for us. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God invites us into newness of life, forgiving and blessing us. 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

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 (Page 948)
Psalm: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (**Read responsively**)

Lector: I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

People: Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Lector: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

People: Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life!"

Lector: What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

Lector: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

People: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.

Lector: O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

People: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

Lector: I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

People: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-23 (Page 1058)
Gospel: Luke 24:13-35 (Page 920)

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.....“We Have Seen the Lord”
Words and Music by David Edwards; Arranged by Dennis Allen

SERMON.....“Open Our Eyes”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 443.....“Trust and Obey”

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: As you meet strangers on the road, learn to recognize Christ in your midst.
People: As our hearts burn within us, we will recognize his whispers to our souls.
Pastor: As you experience Christ in the smile of another, share the love of God with one another.
People: As the scales fall from our eyes, we will see Easter miracles all around us.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 447....."Because He Lives"

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 B. J. Beu from the 2026 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in memory of Harry A. Edwards Jr. by Nancy and Garry Wesner.

-Offering on Sunday, April 12, 2025: \$3,162.00

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

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

-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 is next 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!

-Do you have unwanted cookware, bakeware, dinnerware, kitchen tools? The Farm Store on 113 E. Norwegian St, Pottsville will be accepting donations from now until April 30th to support the Hope Center (for Victims of Domestic Violence). Together we can promote cooking at home, reduce unnecessary waste, and help our community! You can drop off the items at the Farm Store during business hours, 9am to 6pm every weekday and 9am to 6pm every weekend. There is a parking lot and it's a fully handicap accessible building. Please speak to Angela or Josiah Meck if you have any questions.

-A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin table for a Progressive Dinner which 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) If interested, sign your name and select an available category. Please speak to Chris Branca for more information (Cell: 609-713-8852).

-Order forms are on the bulletin table for the red geranium sale for Pentecost Sunday, May 24. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, May 10 and the cost is \$13.00 per 6" pot.

-The Consistory will meet this Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00pm in the conference room.

-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 Schuylkill Association of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ will hold the spring meeting on Sunday, May 3. It will be held at Zion's Red Church, 1287 Centre Turnpike (Rt. 61), Orwigsburg, PA. Registration and fellowship will begin at 2:30pm, with worship and a meeting following from 3:00 – 5:00pm. Please speak to Pastor Ken for more information.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry Tuesday, May 5 beginning at 10am. 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.

-The Sunday School will be holding a sandwich sale to support VBS 2026. Orders will be due by Sunday, May 10. Order forms with details will become available.

-Sunday, May 10 is Youth Sunday. Come out and support our Confirmation students as they lead worship for us that day.

-On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, we will receive our annual offering for Phoebe Ministries. This ministry provides long-term care & programs for seniors. Special envelopes will be available.

-Fellowship Time: Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on **Sunday, May 10.** We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary. 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, May 11** beginning at 8:30am and **Friday, May 15** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend **the Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, May 12** at 6:30pm. The meeting will take place downstairs in room B1. Please speak to Laura Carll, any Sunday School teachers, Pastor Ken or the church office for more information.

-It's mowing season! Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn- a zero turn mower is provided. A signup sheet is on the bulletin table in the narthex. Please contact the church office for more information.

-Mark your calendars: Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Paul's UCC June 22-26. All children ages 4-12 (grade 6) are welcome and invited to attend. Please save the date and share with all your relatives, friends and neighbors. More information will follow via church newsletter, future bulletins, emails, texts and Members of St. Paul's Facebook.

-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, *family and friends of Patrick Fehr*, Lee Miller, Carol Boyer, Addison Faith Dodson, Galen Conover, Cassie Wolfe

CANCER PATIENTS: *Rev. Gene Aulenbach*, 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 19

Sunday, April 19

2:00 PM -Cub Scout Cake Drop-off

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Tuesday, April 21

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, April 22

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 25 -Pastor Ken and Ann's Anniversary!

Sunday, April 26 -Deadline for the church yard sale

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

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 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!



Save the Date!

RAINFOREST FALLS
Exploring the Nature of God

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