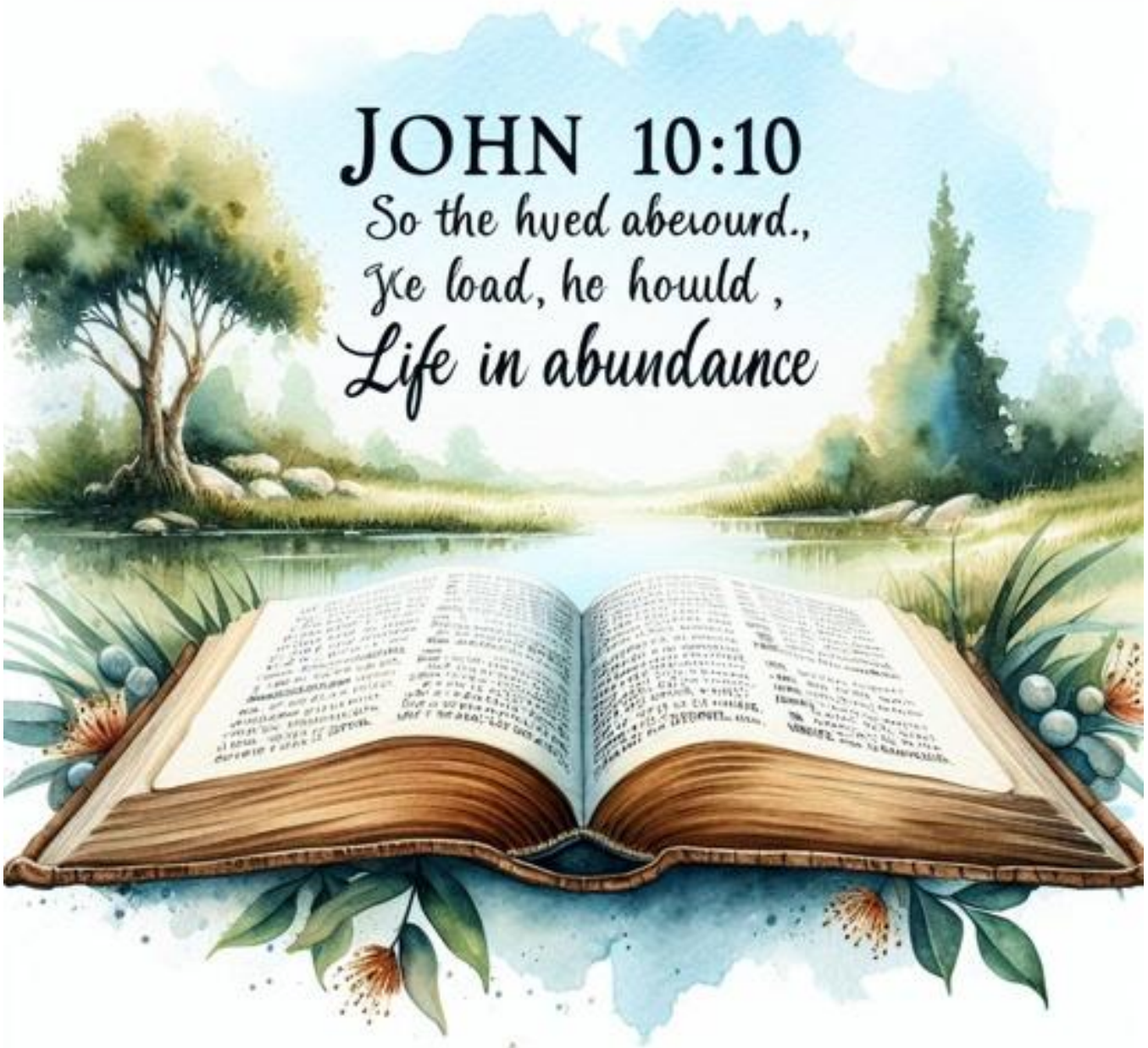


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, April 26, 2026

JOHN 10:10

*So the hved aberourd.,
Ye load, he hould,
Life in abundaunce*



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

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, **the UCC National Staff.**

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: Do you need a guide?
People: The Lord is our shepherd.
Pastor: Do you need a path to new life?
People: The Lord is our gate.
Pastor: Do you need rest?
People: The Lord restores our souls.
Pastor: Come, let us worship. Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 9....."Come, Let Us Praise the Lord"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Loving Shepherd, even when we stray, we long to be gathered to your side. Even when we strive to find our own way, we yearn to return to your fold and rest secure in your gentle arms. Even when we bleat our resistance, we seek your guidance and direction in our lives. Forgive us when we stray. Be our gate, our way to safe havens, where we can always find our way home and dwell secure in your 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

Pastor: Jesus said, I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly.
People: In so confessing, we have returned to the shepherd, the guardian of our souls who welcomes us with open arms and a glad heart.
Pastor: Know that the shepherd of our lives never abandons us, is always calling our name, and unfailingly loves and forgives 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, Mike Fessler

The First Reading: Acts 2:42-47 (Page 949)
Psalm: Psalm 23 (KJV) (Read Responsively)

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my
cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the
LORD forever.**

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:19-25 (Page 1059)
Gospel: John 10:1-10 (Page 933)

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.....“He Restores My Soul”-Words & Music by Benton Stokes; Arr. by Kris Crunk
SERMON.....“What is Abundant Life?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 458.....“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)..United Church of Christ Statement of Faith– adapted by Robert V. Moss

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother,
and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being,
creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.
God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness
declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
God has come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.**

**God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.
God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.
God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. 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 been refreshed and restored.

People: We have been called and guided.

Pastor: Let us go forth knowing who our true shepherd by following his voice

People: We are secure in the knowledge that goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 716.....“God Be With You”

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.

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in loving memory of mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Pauline Arndt by Robin, Chuck, CJ, Kayla, Charlee, Kyla and Kaycee Ferguson, and Sarah, Michael, Brantley, Damien, Gatlin and Emma Wolfe.

-Offering on Sunday, April 19, 2025: \$2,357.00

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

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

-Do you have unwanted cookware, bakeware, dinnerware, kitchen tools? The Farm Store on 113 E. Norwegian St, Pottsville is accepting donations through 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.

-ST PAUL'S UCC IS HAVING A YARD SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 2 FROM 8AM to 1PM. If you would still like to help, food donations and baked goods would be greatly appreciated. **Vendor spaces are available** as well! Sign-up sheet are available on the table in the narthex. 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 additional vendor setup and food preparations. Please come out and support the yard sale. Please speak to Trevor Smith if you have any questions or would like to donate.

-Order forms are available for a sandwich sale to support VBS 2026. Orders are due by Sunday, May 10. The **sandwich pick up** will be on **Saturday, May 16** from 10-11am or **Sunday, May 17** following worship. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Reber at 570-385-5638 or call the church office.

-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.

-It's hard to believe we are thinking about summer already but here we are. **It's time for our summer food drive.** When school ends it can become even more difficult for some to feed their families who no longer have school subsidized breakfasts and lunches provided for their children. If we each do a small part, we can make a BIG difference. As always, the goal is to reach 1000 items. Our fall food drive collected 1200 items which was AMAZING!!!! Can we do that again? Can we surpass that? I pray GOD will place it on your heart to help in whatever way you can to meet this goal. **We will collect from May 1st - May 31st with final donations to be at the church by Sunday, May 31st.** Monday, June 1st our family will collect and deliver all donations to the Food Pantry for June distribution. Flyers with suggested items can be found in the Narthex of the church. Contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 with 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).

-Welcome to Rainforest Falls.... Exploring the Nature of God: 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. Registration forms are available on the bulletin table and can be submitted to the church office, or to wareber@comcast.net. No child will be turned away, however, to guarantee that there will be enough supplies for every child, **please register each child by Sunday, May 24.** More information will follow via church newsletter, bulletins, email, text and Members of St. Paul's Facebook. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

-The Schuylkill Association of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ will hold the spring meeting next 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 will meet on Tuesday, May 5 beginning at 10am. This will be the last meeting until the fall as the group enjoys a summer break. If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office or Nancy Dewald.

-Sunday, May 10 is Youth Sunday and a joint Worship Service. Come out and support the Confirmation students from both St. Paul's UCC and St. Paul's Lutheran Church as they lead the joint worship service 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.

-We have again designated the third Sunday of the month as "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday. The upcoming dates are **May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16 and September 20.** We will have a Blessing of the Bikes on our first ride in May. Spread the word, invite your friend, and join us for some fun and fellowship. If you would like to be notified of other rides throughout the summer, please notify the church office to have your name added to the "Biker" email list!

-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.

Join Us in Remembering....We will join with our neighbors from St. Paul's Lutheran Church for a Memorial Service of Remembrance at the Veterans Memorial next to the Summer Hill Cemetery on Sunday, May 24 at 10:00am. This is a wonderful and very meaningful way to begin our holiday week, and start off summer on the right note. Children are more than welcome to bring flowers to lay at the memorial.

-On Sunday, May 24 we will celebrate the birthday of the church and confirm the baptismal vows of our Confirmands as we welcome them into church membership.

-We will collect the Strengthen the Church (STC) offering on Sunday, May 24. This offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. Special envelopes are available.

-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 Shirley Williamson, family and friends of Jack Wabby*, Lee Miller, Carol Boyer, Addison Faith Dodson, Galen Conover, Cassie Wolfe

CANCER PATIENTS: Rev. Gene Aulenbach, 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, APRIL 26

Sunday, April 26 -Deadline for the church yard sale

10:30 AM -Worship

Monday, April 27

6 - 9:00 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

Wednesday, April 29

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, May 1

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM/ 3 – 7:00 PM -church yard sale set-up

Saturday, May 2

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM -Church yard sale

Sunday, May 3

9:15 AM -Sunday School

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

2:30 PM -Spring Schuylkill Association Meeting

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Den Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

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!

