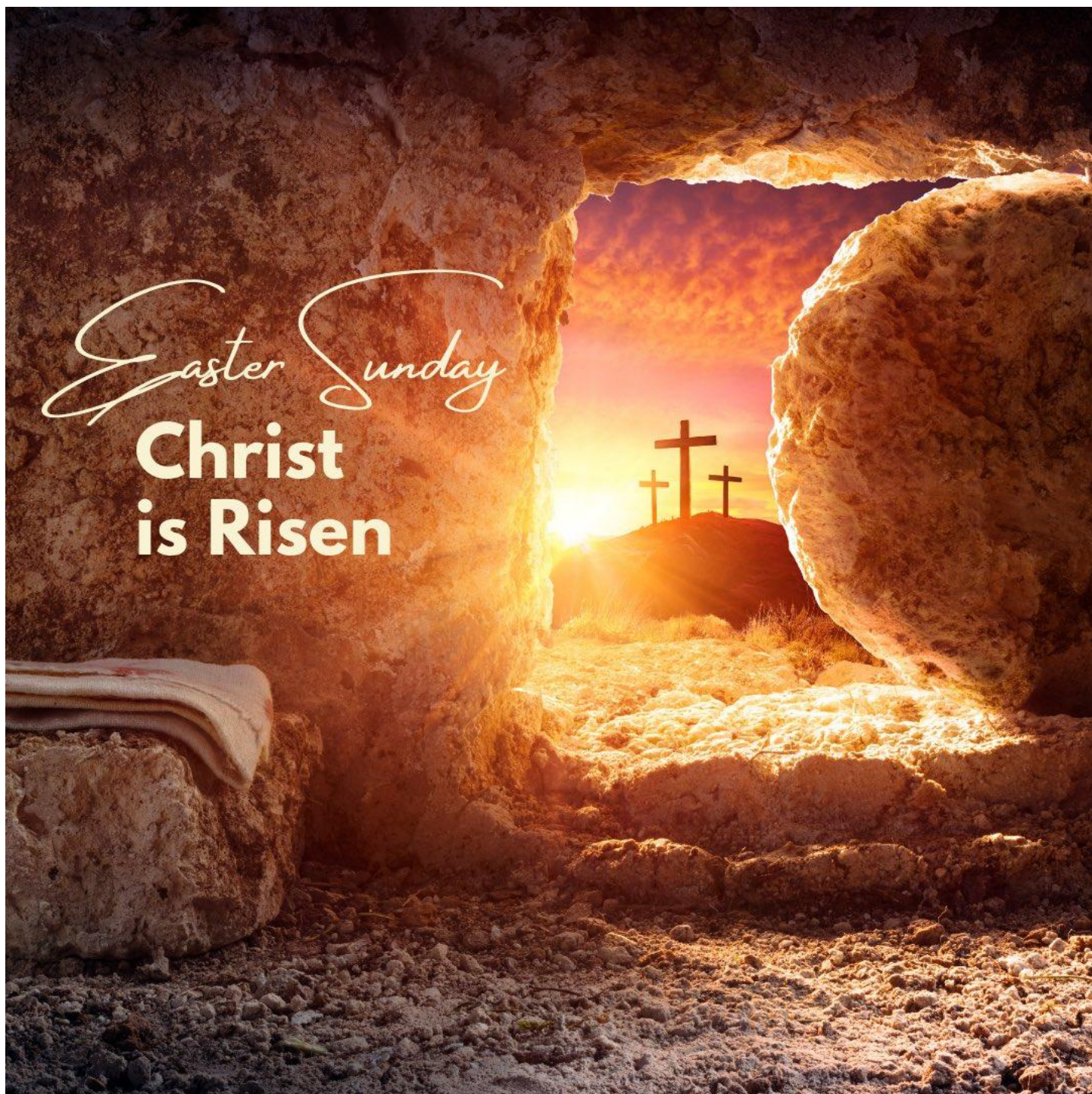


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, April 5, 2026



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

Website: www.summerhillucc.com

Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

**Easter Sunday
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
St. Paul’s Minstrels**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **the resurrection of our Savior.**

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.

(Communion note: This morning, as some of us are gathered together here at church while many are gathering with us virtually from their homes, we all are invited to the same table. Those present this morning will be served communion elements in the pews. Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Pastor: This is the life that our God has brought.

People: Let us sing out and be glad in it.

Pastor: This is the light that our savior shines forth.

People: Let us give thanks and be glad in it.

Pastor: This is the love that has conquered the grave.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN NO. 288.....“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Merciful God, we don’t always recognize Christ, even when we are looking directly at your Incarnate Love. We cling to our assumptions about how life on earth should unfold, forgetting that life in your realm shatters those expectations. Forgive us when we go through our daily routine and forget to look for the Risen One. Forgive us when coming to worship is more about our desires than it is about encountering you and our Resurrected Lord. Open our eyes and our hearts, O God, to the full awareness of your presence with us, in each and every moment of our lives. We pray in the name of Christ, who is alive! Alleluia and 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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD:.....Lector, Brook Koch-Guers

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:1-6 (Page 679)

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (**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: The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

People: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

Lector: the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

People: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Lector: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

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

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

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

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

People: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

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

Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4 (Page 1027)

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1-18 (Page 944)

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.....“Christ Is Risen Indeed” -Written by Nan & Dennis Allen; Arranged by Dennis Allen

SERMON.....“You Can’t Miss It!”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may stand.

HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 294.....“Christ Arose!”

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

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

OFFERING & OFFERTORY.....Selections by St. Paul's Minstrels

(At this time, the Regular & All Special Offerings will be received)

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation:

Pastor: Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

People: In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

Pastor: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

The Communion Prayer:

The Seraphic Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory, Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

The congregation may be seated.

Words of Institution:

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus.....By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

People: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!

Prayer of Consecration:

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.

Breaking of the Bread:

Lifting of the Cup:

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

Thank you, Triune God, for feeding us abundantly from the storehouse of your mercy in Jesus Christ. You restore us, body and soul. You make us whole. Now send us forth into the world as living witnesses of your renewing love that brings hope and wholeness today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: From darkness and despair, we find hope and joy.

People: Christ is risen! We go forth in hope!

Pastor: From doubt and betrayal, we find trust and faith.

People: Christ is risen! We go forth in faith!

Pastor: From suffering and death, we find healing and life.

People: Christ is risen! We go forth to love!

Pastor: Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 302.....“He Lives”

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 2025 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers are in memory of Caroline Wildermuth (who was born on Easter Sunday) by her family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Caroline Wildermuth by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

-Offering on Sunday, March 29, 2025: \$2,949.00

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

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

-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.

-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service next 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. 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.

-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 signup sheet will be placed 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, **Deb Clauser, Carol Boyer,** 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, APRIL 5

Easter Sunday, April 5

Wednesday, April 8

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, April 12

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries

-Fellowship time following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalms 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen, Indeed!!

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

The poster features a central illustration of a waterfall cascading down a rocky cliff. A monkey is visible on the right side of the waterfall. The text "Save the Date!" is at the top, followed by "RAINFOREST FALLS" in large, stylized letters, and "Exploring the Nature of God" in a banner below. The bottom section contains a white box with a registration form.