



## St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC May 2026 Newsletter



### Pastor's Page

#### Greetings St. Paul's Summer Hill!

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” — 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)

What a joy it is to look around our sanctuary lately and see so many faces—some who have been the bedrock of this church for decades, and many new friends who have joined our growing, vibrant family of faith. There is a palpable sense of momentum here at St. Paul's. We aren't just "maintaining" a building or a tradition; we are a living, breathing garden that is beginning to bloom in ways we haven't seen in years.

Our attendance and participation this year have been truly inspiring, filling our pews with a renewed spirit. With so many new people joining us, I encourage you that if you see a face you don't recognize, please take a moment to introduce yourself. Building these personal connections is what makes us more effective in our ministry together. A wonderful opportunity to do just that is our upcoming **Progressive Dinner on May 16th**, organized by Chris Branca. It's a fantastic way to get better acquainted with our church family in a relaxed setting, so please be sure to sign up and join the fun!

As we move into May, we find ourselves in that beautiful stretch of the Easter season where we transition from the "joy of the empty tomb" to the "work of the Great Commission." This month is packed with milestones that remind us that the Holy Spirit doesn't just give us comfort—it gives us a calling.

On **May 10th**, we celebrate **Youth Sunday**. This year is particularly special as we welcome our brothers and sisters from St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Our combined Confirmation Class will be

conducting the service, proving that the future of the Body of Christ is not only bright but also united.

Then, on **May 24th**, we reach the mountaintop of the spring season: **Pentecost**. We will witness the confirmation of five of our young people. As they stand before the congregation to claim their faith, it is a reminder to all of us that the Holy Spirit is still descending, still calling, and still equipping.

But here is the thing about a growing garden: the more it grows, the more tending it needs. While things are going wonderfully at St. Paul's, I believe God is nudging us to go even deeper. Every person sitting in our pews has been given a "spiritual gift"—a unique talent, a specific passion, or a servant's heart.

I want to personally invite you to consider how you might put your gifts to use. Perhaps you have an idea for a new fellowship opportunity that could bring us closer together, or a service project that could reach a corner of our community we haven't touched yet. We don't want to be a church where only a few do the work; we want to be a community where everyone finds the joy of serving. If you have a spark of an idea, please share it with me or a member of the Consistory. We are ready to grow with you!

As a reminder, May is the final month of our school year schedule, with **Sunday School at 9:15 AM** and **Worship at 10:30 AM**. Starting the first Sunday in June, we will move to our Summer schedule with **Worship at 9:30 AM** (and no Sunday School).

Let us finish this season strong, leaning into the gifts God has planted within us. I can't wait to see what we will build together next.

Blessings in Service,

*Pastor Ken*

## Communion Offering

The May Communion Offering is designated to Phoebe Ministries.

The June Communion Offering is designated to Red Creek Wildlife Center.

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## 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 Hymn of Reflection after the sermon 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!



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## Food Drive Challenge May 1 – May 31st

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 Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry for June distribution. Flyers with suggested items can be found in the Narthex of the church and also on page 5 of the newsletter. Contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 with questions.

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## Church Yard Sale- May 2

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! 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.

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## Schuylkill Association Meeting

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.

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## Prayer Shawl Committee

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on **Tuesday, May 5** (not the second Sunday) from 10am-12noon in the conference room. This will be the last meeting until the fall as they enjoy a summer break. 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.

## Youth Sunday Joint Worship Service

**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.

## Phoebe Offering

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 combined 10:30am worship service on **Youth Sunday, May 10**. We will gather in the fellowship hall. Catch up with old friends, make new ones, and stay up to date on everything happening at both St. Paul's churches. Donations of treats (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins, etc.) are greatly appreciated.

## Schuylkill Haven Area Food Pantry

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.

## Board of Christian Ed. Meeting

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.

## Red Geranium Order Form (For Pentecost Sunday, May 24)

Orders and money may be given to  
**Lori Moyer or the church office.**

The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, May 10**  
The cost per red geranium is **\$13.00.**

If mailing, please send a completed form  
with your payment (checks can be written to  
"St. Paul's UCC") to the church office:  
**1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922**

## Red Geranium Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

No. of geraniums \_\_\_\_ Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid Y or N

Placed in memory/honor (please circle choice) of \_\_\_\_\_

Placed in memory/honor (please circle choice) of \_\_\_\_\_

**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!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SANDWICH ORDERS**

**PICKUP:** Saturday, May 16, FROM 10 AM until 11 AM  
or on Sunday, May 17, after Sunday School or church.

Pickup will be in the fellowship hall.

Orders are due by Sunday May 10.

Orders may be placed at 570-385-5638 or  
wareber@comcast.net

**\$6.00 EACH**

All proceeds benefit Vacation Bible School 2026

Sandwiches are on a soft ATV roll and include 1/4 lb. chipped ham or 1/4 lb. turkey with 1 slice of American cheese.

**PLEASE CIRCLE ONE - I WILL PICK UP  
ON.....SATURDAY ..... SUNDAY**

**NAME:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

ITEM	QUANTITY
HAM	
TURKEY	

TOTAL DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAID: \_\_\_\_\_

# St Paul's UCC

## YOU'VE BEEN CHALLENGED

### 31 DAYS OF GIVING

# FOOD DRIVE

**31 DAYS, 31 HOUSEHOLDS, 31 FOOD ITEMS**

*THIS LIST IS A GUIDE: While following the list will make it easier to provide families with similar boxes filled with items covering all three meals in a day and fill summer needs, ANY 31 non-perishable items are GREATLY appreciated!*

1. Box of oatmeal
2. Box Cereal
3. Box Cereal
4. Pancake Mix
5. Pancake syrup
6. Packet or Box of Muffin Mix
7. Peanut butter
8. Jelly
9. Ramen Noodles
10. Can of soup
11. Can of soup
12. Spaghetti O's
13. Spaghetti O's
14. Can of Tuna
15. Can of Tuna
16. Flavored Noodles
17. Flavored Noodles
18. Pack of Freezable Ice Pops
19. Pack of Cookies
20. Bottle Juice
21. Bottle Juice
22. Applesauce Cups
23. Fruit Cups
24. Jello
25. Box of Mac n Cheese
26. Box of Mac n Cheese
27. Box of Pasta
28. Box of Pasta
29. Pasta Sauce
30. Pasta Sauce
31. Can of Baked Beans

**Collection dates May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Donations due Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> so items can**  
**be prepared for Food Pantry distribution in June.**

*Please feel free to drop off your donation at the back of the sanctuary or contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 to schedule a pick-up of your donation from your home. Can't do the shopping yourself? If you make a donation the Guers family will shop for you and send you a copy of the receipt for your donation.*

## Progressive Dinner

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) If interested, sign your name and select an available category on the sign-up sheet in the church narthex. Please speak to Chris Branca for more information (Cell: 609-713-8852).

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## Motorcycle Sunday

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 friends, 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!

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## Consistory Meeting

The Consistory will meet on **Tuesday, May 19** at 7:00pm in the conference room.

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## Join Us In Remembering....

### MEMORIAL DAY



Service at the Veterans Memorial next to the Summer Hill Cemetery  
**Sunday, May 24**  
at 10:00am

We will join with our neighbors from St. Paul's Lutheran Church for this Memorial Service of Remembrance. 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.

## Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday

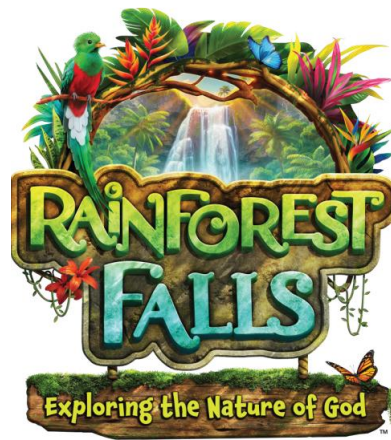
On **Sunday, May 24** we will celebrate the birthday of the church and confirm the baptismal vows of our Confirmands as we welcome them into church membership.

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## Strengthen the Church Offering

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.

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**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. A registration form is included in this newsletter and is also available at the church. Forms can be submitted to the church office, or to [wareber@comcast.net](mailto: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!!



**St. Paul's UCC/St. Paul's Lutheran (Summer Hill) VBS Registration Form  
(One per child)  
June 22-26 6:00 to 8:30  
Closing Program June 26**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone number to contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Best email address to contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you give your permission to allow any pictures that may contain your child to be posted on social media? \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_ at phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt size: Please circle

Child XS(2-4) SM (6-8) M (10-12) L (14-16)

Adult SM (34-36) M (38-40) L (42-44) XL (46-48) 2XL (50-52)

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering on **Sunday, May 31** is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. Special envelopes will be available closer to the date, or you can just make a note on any regular envelope.

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## Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

There will be a VBS Planning Meeting on **Tuesday, June 2** at 7:00 PM in downstairs room B1.

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## Keystone Conference Annual Meeting

The Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ's first Annual Meeting will be held **June 5-7** at Millersville University in Millersville. Please speak to Pastor Ken for more information.

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## Summer Worship Schedule

Our summer worship schedule will begin on **Sunday, June 7**. During the months of June, July and August, worship will be held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. There will be no Sunday school during this time. Worship will resume at 10:30am on Sunday, September 6.

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## Calling All Graduates

During our 9:30am worship service on **Sunday, June 28**, we will be recognizing and congratulating the graduates from our congregation. If you or someone you know is graduating from High School, College, a Technical School or some other institution of higher learning, please contact the church office **by June 14**, so that we may recognize them for their fantastic achievement.

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## Outdoor Worship

Outdoor worship services will be held once a month, the fourth Sunday of the month. Grab your lawn chair or favorite blanket and join us once again amidst the beauty of God's creation. Our first outdoor service will be held on the front church lawn on **Sunday,**

**June 28** at 9:30am. We will also worship outdoors on **Sunday, July 26** and **Sunday, August 23**. Please note: in case of inclement weather, the services will be moved inside and held in the sanctuary.

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## Youth Acolytes Needed

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.

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## Help is Needed- Mowing the Church Property

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

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## Funeral Planning

It may not be something that anyone likes to think about, but prearranging your own funeral can be an opportunity to provide you and your family with comfort at a time when they will need it the most.

Benefits of prearrangements could include:

- You'll help ensure your wishes are met
- You'll reduce stress for your family
- You'll help prevent family conflict
- It will encourage meaningful conversations with your family
- You can make complex decisions ahead of time when you have the time to think things through.
- You may save money and be able to prepare financially

The same benefits can result by pre-planning the church service. Let us know what you would like included in your service now, so that your family can have peace knowing they are fulfilling your wishes. Please see the form on the next page. You may also request a digital copy by contacting the church office.

# Funeral Service Form

Please fill-out one form per person and return it to Pastor Ken or contact him for assistance.

All forms will be stored in the Pastor's office and can be changed at any time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which setting do you prefer? (circle one) Church / Funeral Home / Graveside / Other (specify)

2. What music (if any) would you like during the Church service?

*(Note: Usually 2-4 songs are sung at a church service. Others could be used as preludes, postludes or special music. Some common ones include, but are not limited to: Because he lives, Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art, It is Well with My Soul, What a friend We Have in Jesus, The Old Rugged Cross, etc. Even some secular songs when appropriate could also be used.)*

3. What scriptures would you like read?

*(Note: Typically 3-4 passages are read. Some common ones include, but are not limited to: Psalm 23, 46 and 121, Isaiah 40:28-31, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Matthew 5:3-10, selected verses from John 14, and 1 Corinthians 13.)*

4. Are there other readings that you'd like used? (poems, specific prayers, etc.)

5. Would you like the Pall to be used during the Church Service? (circle one) YES or NO

6. Would you like anyone special to be asked to participate in the service? (other clergy, family, friends)

7. Would you like the Sacrament of Holy Communion to be celebrated? (circle one) YES or NO

8. Are there specific things that you'd like mentioned?

9. Have arrangements been prearranged with a funeral home? If yes, which one?

10. If you would like memorial gifts to be sent to St. Paul's, please specify either: (circle one)

*The Living Memorial Fund  
(principal invested, typically only interest used)*

or

*The Memorial Fund  
(funds available for church needs)*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Sunday School News

Wow, the months have been flying by. Keep a watch for a Sub Sale from the Sunday School to help with our VBS. It's also that time that we will be going into to summer, the last day for Sunday School is May 31st, 2026. VBS is coming soon make sure you sign up if you haven't.

Christian Education Secretary  
Amy Zimmerman

### Special Dates:

May 12th, 2026- Christian Education Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm

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Your Consistory met on April 21, 2026 and discussed the following items:

Briefly mentioned the Anna Mae Minnchoff estate and that the money set aside for the church has been received

Noted the planned worship schedule for the coming summer months

Discussed some potential candidates for the cleaning person position. The Consistory made a motion to approve the hiring of Stacy Fidler.

May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries

June Communion offering will support the Red Creek Wildlife Center

The next Consistory Mtg. will be held on May 19, 2026.

Respectfully yours,  
Trevor Smith, Secretary

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## Thank You!!

-to Dean and Lori Edwards for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for May 2026

-Dear St. Paul's Family,

Thank you for thinking of me on Administrative Professional's Day on April 22! Thank you for the card, gift card and beautiful flowers! I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you here at St. Paul's. With love, Kelly

-Dear St. Paul's UCC,

I'm writing to express my appreciation for the recent gift sent to Samaritans purse from Saint Paul's United Church of Christ for U.S. Disaster Relief and Rebuild. As we help victims of storms, fires, and floods, we thank God for your support and your prayers.

Our disaster relief teams have been responding in southwest Michigan, northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana after deadly tornadoes ravaged communities in this region. Our staff and volunteers are also continuing to work from four sites to assist storm victims in Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee. Samaritans Purse rebuild teams are replacing mobile homes, repairing houses, and building new homes for people who are displaced by fires in Maui, Hurricane Helene in North Carolina and Tennessee, and floods in Texas. Thank you !

Sincerely, Franklin Graham

-Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire team of Servants to All, thank you for your generous donation to My Father's House in support of those most in need in our community. Your kindness is already making a significant difference in the lives of the individuals and families we serve.

Your contribution helps us provide essential resources-- safe shelter, warm meals, clothing, hygiene items, and supportive services for neighbors experiencing homelessness. The compassion and generosity shown by your congregation bring hope, dignity, and comfort during times of great hardship.

We are truly blessed to have such a caring and supportive community walking alongside us. Your unwavering commitment to helping those in need inspires our work every day. Please know that your donation is deeply appreciated by everyone at Servants to All. Because of you, many who are struggling will experience warmth, care, and the reassurance that they are not alone. Your gift brings light to those experiencing darkness and reminds them that new beginnings are possible.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers, as we hold you in ours. With heartfelt gratitude,

Jeanette Triano Sinn,  
Executive Director

-Dear Friends,

With grateful hearts, the Schuylkill Center for Victims of Domestic Violence acknowledge receipt of your \$416.00 donation.

Last year the Hope Center assisted 1,300 individuals impacted by domestic abuse. Your generosity helps to ensure that we can continue offering victims and their families the assistance they need on their paths to safety and independence. We could not do it without you!

Your thoughtfulness to make a difference in the lives of survivors and their families not only improves their overall quality of life but enriches our community. We simply cannot thank you enough for taking this action to help create a more peaceful Schuylkill County. On behalf of the Hope Center and all those we serve, our deepest appreciation for your gift of help, hope, and healing.

Sincerely, Sarah I. Barket,  
Chief Public Affairs Officer

### **May 17- Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:6-14  
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11  
John 17:1-11

### **May 24- Day of Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

### **May 31- Trinity Sunday**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a  
Psalm 8  
2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Matthew 28:16-20

### **June 7- Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 12:1-9  
Psalm 33:1-12  
Hos 5:15-6:6  
Psalm 50:7-15  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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## **The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:**

### **May 3- Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

### **May 10- Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17:22-31  
Psalm 66:8-20  
1 Peter 3:13-22  
John 14:15-21

### **May 14- Ascension of the Lord**

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

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## **May Birthdays**

- 1 - Jill Cutter
- 3 - Jeff Palerino
  - Jillian Horvath
- 4 - Lucille A. Faust
  - Lily Meck
- 6 - Cheryl Zimmerman
  - Brock Koch
  - Michael Mattes
  - Mya Clauser
- 7 - Linda Honyara
  - Dara (Deibert) Moucheron
- 9 - John Borchick
- 11 - Sheryl Fuller
  - Ron Koch
  - Bailey Hoppes
- 12 - Barbara Leete
- 15 - Logan Ulsh
- 16 - Zachary Palerino
  - Elias Nagle

- 17 - Bob Guers  
- Colson Bedway
- 18 - Adam Carll
- 19 - Madeline Langan
- 20 - Eric Reber
- 21 - Dave Heim  
- Donna Transosky
- 23 - Shirley Reber
- 24 - Ashley Heffner
- 25 - Bradley Epler  
- Lauren Smith
- 26 - Brian K. Moyer  
- Josephine Good  
- Harper Moucheron
- 28 - Logan Koch
- 29 - Maci Sterner  
- Joseph Branca  
- Justine "Snipps" Reber
- 30 - Jacob Kline
- 31 - Lori Moyer

## Grateful For Those Who Gave All



We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or

enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## May Anniversaries

- 11 - Ardith and Paul Moyer
- 14 - Ryan and Heather Carey
- 17 - Jeremy and Lynn Warke
- 18 - Robin and Chuck Ferguson
- 20 - Christine and Joe Maurer  
- Deborah and Brian Langan
- 28 - Debbie and Dave Deibert

## May Baptismal Anniversaries

- Maylee Grace, daughter of Bradley and Ashley Epler

## Special Dates for May 2026

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2026*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2026*
- Ascension of the Lord, *May 14, 2026*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2026*
- Victoria Day [Canada], *May 18, 2026*
- Day of Pentecost, *May 24, 2026*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2026*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 31, 2026*

## An Unusual Answer to a Mother's Prayer

Linda Jo Peters of Terre Haute, Indiana, felt her "worry button" get pushed when her daughter, Esther, called from college with an unexpected plan. Esther explained she wanted to go camping alone in a park in southern Illinois. She needed quiet time to think and asked her mother for Bible verses to read as she prayed about her future.

Linda knew Esther felt strongly about going, even if it made her uneasy. After the call ended, Linda dropped to her knees and began what she later called "a dialogue with God." She closed her prayer with a simple surrender: "I guess you want me on my knees that weekend."

And that is exactly where she stayed.

The morning after Esther's first night at camp, she called home. She was safe, she said, and no one had come near her tent. All night long, however, a skunk had wandered nearby, circling the campsite.

Later, Linda reflected on the moment with quiet confidence. "There was no way anyone with evil intent would have approached Esther's tent," she wrote, "while the power of prayer, in the form of a black-and-white critter, was circling it."

*“The best inheritance a mother can leave her children is a Christian example.”*

*“Sooner or later, we all quote our mothers.”*

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## Christian Symbol



**CEDAR TREE** — A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.

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## Bible Quiz

Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

Answer: A (Romans 16:22)

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## An A-Plus Answer

Twelve-year-old Daniel was doing his best to test the patience of his mother, the Rev. Ann Lewis. He pushed back on every request, and the tension in the room kept rising as he refused to cooperate.

Finally, his mother reached her limit. Looking at him firmly, she said, "Daniel, you have tested me to my limits."

Without missing a beat, Daniel grinned and replied, "Yes! And you get an A-plus."

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## Commencing a Lifetime of Learning



What would you tell a young man or woman about to graduate? One of the most common messages commencement speakers share is that graduates are indeed commencing. They are only just beginning to learn.

While they may rightly feel proud of finishing school, a few months in the working world often reveal how much they still do not know.

Christians who love God with their minds understand that truth frees us from ignorance and superstition. They also know that the joy of learning brings deep satisfaction and, in time, wisdom. That wisdom helps us evaluate what we have learned and use it well, so that knowledge becomes a tool for growth and faithful living.

## When the Spirit Turned Fear Into Courage

When Jesus was arrested, his apostles fled in fear. Peter, shaken and afraid, found himself denying that he even knew Christ. Christ's followers hid in confusion and grief, feeling brokenhearted and hopeless.

Then, on the Jewish Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came mightily upon them. Suddenly, they were empowered. Immediately they were galvanized. Right then and there, they were filled with enormous courage. Boldly, forthrightly, not far from the site of the crucifixion, they began to proclaim that Christ had been raised from the dead and that he was most certainly the long-awaited Messiah.

The fire of the Holy Spirit burned so vividly within them that people from all over came to see and hear what the apostles were claiming. Peter told them the story of Christ as best he could. Then Peter offered his hearers the opportunity of becoming Christ's followers. Amazingly, three thousand people responded to the offer at that very minute (Acts 2:41). We call that event the birthday of the Church.

Suzanne de Dietrich writes this about Pentecost in *Free Men*: "A great wave of faith and love swept through this newborn community. People gave their hearts to God and shared their possessions with their brothers and sisters in Christ. These believers could not keep silent. Their joyful freedom broke down every wall others tried to place around them, and no prison could silence their witness."

The power of God upon them and within them was truly astounding.

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***"Doing the tough things today  
prepares us for the big things tomorrow."***

—Zig Ziglar

***"Don't keep God in a box;  
include him at the table."***

—Focus on the Family

# GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

**What you need:**

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



**What you do:**

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV  
But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

# STEWARDSHIP

## STEWARDSHIP: Growing in Grace and Generosity

As we embrace the full bloom of May, we are reminded that growth is a natural and beautiful part of God's creation. Here at St. Paul's Summer Hill, we have much to celebrate! We are a growing and faithful congregation, and your presence, talents, and resources are the seeds that allow our mission to flourish.

**The Reality of a Growing Mission** With growth comes new opportunities—and new responsibilities. As we expand our reach through programs like our youth ministry and local community outreach, we also face the reality of the rising costs of ministry. From the increased utility costs of maintaining our historic building to the rising prices of supplies for our mission partners, the "cost of doing business" for the Kingdom of God has grown.

**What is Stewardship?** Christian stewardship is the grateful and responsible use of God's gifts. It is a joyful act of worship that manifests in many ways:

- **Telling the Good News:** Living out the Gospel in our daily lives.
- **Seeking Justice:** Supporting those in need through service and compassion.
- **Providing for the Future:** Wisely employing our human resources and relationships for generations to come.

**Moving Toward the Goal** To meet our current needs and ensure our future growth, we invite every member to prayerfully consider their level of generosity. We are challenged to move toward a "tithe"—the biblical goal of giving 10% of our income back to God.

If you are not yet at a full tithe, consider taking a "Step Up" this year. Increasing your weekly gift by even 1% or 2% can make a world of difference when we all act together.

**Determining Your Level of Generosity** Please use the **Weekly Giving Guide** chart below to help you discern your next step. Find your approximate household income and see where your current giving lands. Can you challenge yourself to move one column to the right this May?

Annual Household Income	1%	2%	4%	6%	8%	10% (Tithe)	<p><b>How to use this Weekly Giving Guide:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Find your Income: Locate your approximate annual household income in the left-hand column.</li> <li>2. Identify your current step: Move to the right to find the dollar amount closest to your current weekly offering. Look at the top of that column to see your current percentage.</li> <li>3. Step Up: To help meet the rising costs of our growing ministry, consider moving one column to the right. Even a 1% or 2% increase makes a significant impact when we all grow together.</li> </ol>
\$20,000	\$4	\$8	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38	
\$30,000	\$6	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58	
\$40,000	\$8	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77	
\$50,000	\$10	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	
\$60,000	\$12	\$23	\$46	\$69	\$92	\$115	
\$75,000	\$14	\$29	\$58	\$87	\$115	\$144	
\$100,000	\$19	\$38	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192	
\$125,000	\$24	\$48	\$96	\$144	\$192	\$240	
\$150,000	\$29	\$58	\$115	\$173	\$231	\$288	

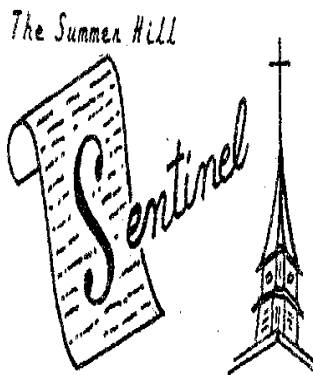
Thank you for your continued faithfulness and for responding to the call to support our mission. Your gifts ensure that St. Paul's remains a place where all can experience the love of Christ.

**Every Gift is Important!**

With Thankful Blessings,  
**The St. Paul's Consistory**

**May 2026**

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
1235 Summer Hill Road  
Auburn, PA 17922**



**Church Phone: 570-754-7225**

**Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor: 610-207-4783**

**Office Hours: Monday– Thursday 9am - 2pm**

**Email: [summerhillucc@gmail.com](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)**

**Address Service Requested**

**Visit the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ- <https://keystoneucc.org/>**

**Visit the United Church of Christ – [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)**

**Church Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Ken McDowell

**Church Administrator & Custodian:**  
Kelly Palerino

**Director of Youth Ministries:** Laura Carll

**Music Director/ Pianist:** Rae Ann Borger

**Organists:** Colin Andrew/ Jacob Challenger  
(Supply)

**Church Leadership**

**Consistory President:** Pam Clauser

**Consistory Vice President:** Jeff Palerino

**Consistory Secretary:** Trevor Smith

**Consistory Assistant Secretary:** Terri Saunders

**Treasurer:** Lori Moyer

**Financial Secretary:** Kathy Kline

**Consistory Elders:** Robin Ferguson, Jeff Palerino and Mike Reber

**Consistory Trustees:** Clint Clauser, Kelly Palerino and Trevor Smith

**Stewardship/Mission- Deacons of Consistory:** ,  
Lori Moyer, Tom and Terri Saunders, Kathy Kline, Mike Rubinkam and Pam Clauser

**Board of Christian Education Chairperson & Summer Hill Youth Group:** Laura Carll

**Board of Christian Education Vice-Chairperson:** Vicky Borger

**Board of Christian Education Secretary:**  
Amy Zimmerman

**Sunday Morning Coordinator:** Trevor Smith

**Assistant Sunday Coordinator:** David Deibert

**Budget Committee:** Pam Clauser

**Personnel Committee:** Lori Moyer

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Chair:** Nancy Dewald

**Altar Committee Chairperson:** Kelly Palerino

**May 2026**