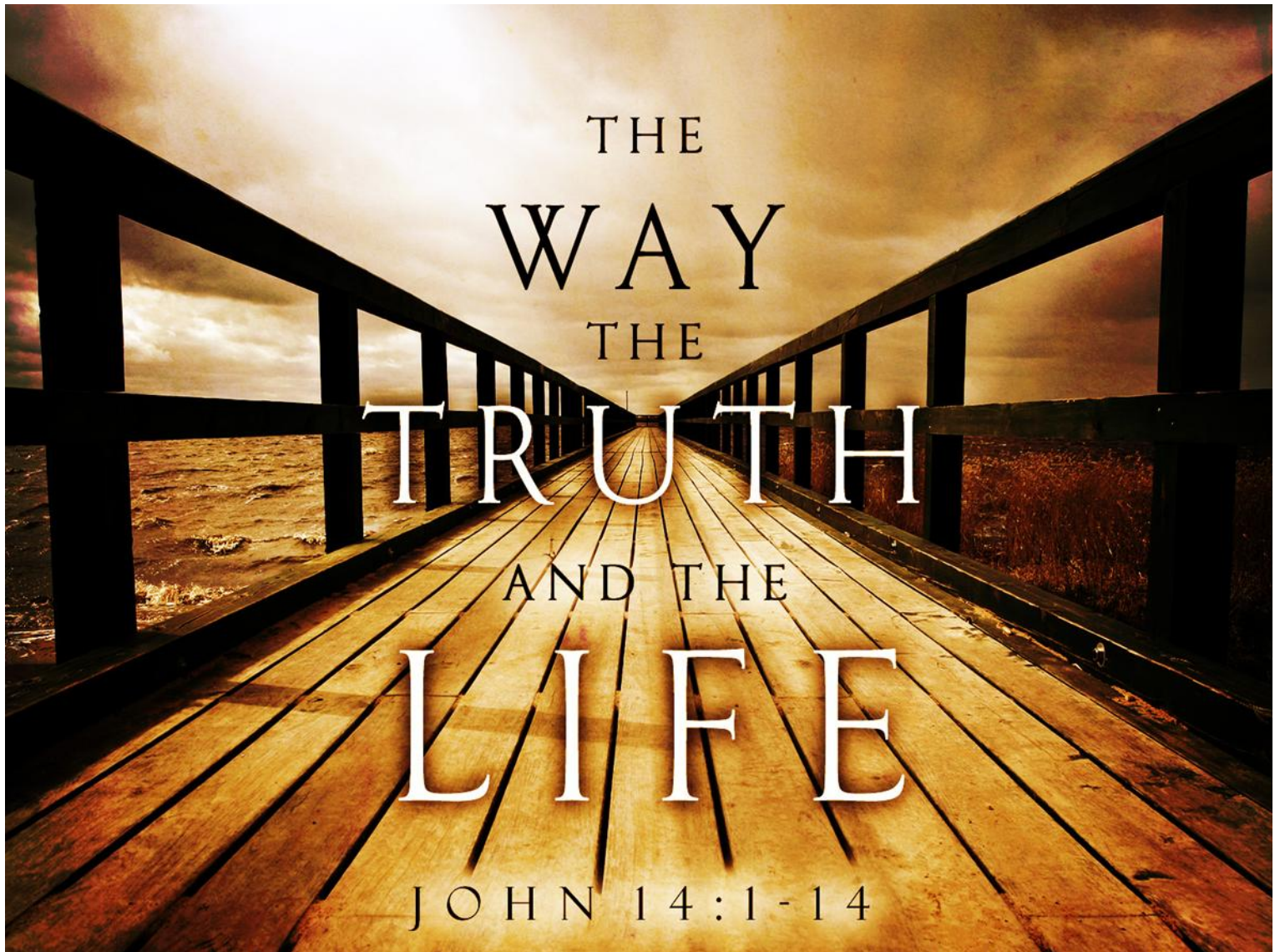


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, May 3, 2026



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

**Fifth Sunday of Easter
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **the Schuylkill Association Spring Meeting** 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.

(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 are invited to pick up a bag of individually prepared elements from the table in the narthex, as we will not be distributing the elements during the service. 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: Come to Christ, our cornerstone.

People: Christ has called us here.

Pastor: Trust in God, our firm foundation.

People: God is with us here.

Pastor: Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace.

People: May the Spirit guide our way. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 110....."We Come, O Christ, to You"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Mighty God, we want to be brave, but it's tempting to be small and afraid. Lift us up when we fall down. Protect us from our own doubts and fears. Forgive our foolish ways, and shine your face upon us with mercy and grace, that we might find the courage and strength to be steadfast and faithful, loving and righteous. Be our strong foundation, so that we may grow up as your household, your family, and your people of justice, love, and mercy. In hope and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and place your faith in Christ.

People: We will make our petitions known and the one who is faithful will answer.

Pastor: Our God will always love us and forgive all who call on his name. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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, Brook Koch Guers

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 7:55-60 (Page 954)

Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (Read Responsively)

Lector: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

People: Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

Lector: You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

People: take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Lector: Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

People: My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Lector: Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love. Amen.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10 (Page 1058)

Gospel Lesson: John 14:1-14 (Page 938)

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.....“I Will Follow You”- Words, Music and Arr. by Tom Fettke

SERMON.....“Steadfast Faithfulness”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 451.....“Be Still, My Soul”

The congregation may stand.

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

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: 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 Jesus' betrayal and desertion, that he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus also took the cup after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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):

Gracious God, we give thanks that through Christ, we live in your favor. We give thanks that through Christ, we come to the table of grace partaking heavenly food and the gift of salvation. Like the great company of witnesses who came to this table before us, we are filled with gratitude and joy for your many blessings. We come before you in praise and thanksgiving, as we commit ourselves again as members of the living body of Christ. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Once we were not a people.

People: Now we go as God’s people.

Pastor: Once our souls were parched from thirst.

People: But now we go satisfied, fed by God’s spiritual milk.

Pastor: Once our hearts were troubled.

People: Now they rest secure.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 569.....“God of Grace and God of Glory”

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 Mary J. Scifres 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 honor of Justin Nagle’s Birthday (May 16), Elias Nagle’s Birthday (May 16), Mathias Nagle’s Birthday (April 10), Lucinda Nagle’s Birthday (April 25) and Josh and Tina Nagle’s Wedding Anniversary (May 29).

-Offering on Sunday, April 26, 2025: \$2,104.00

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

-The May Communion Offering is designated to Phoebe Ministries.

-The Schuylkill Association of the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ Spring meeting will take place TODAY. 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.

-Order forms are available for a sandwich sale to support VBS 2026. Orders are due by next 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 next 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 now- 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.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this 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.

-Next 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, next Sunday, May 10, we will receive our annual offering for Phoebe Ministries. This ministry provides long-term care & programs for seniors. Special envelopes are available on the bulletin table.

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

-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.

-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 by **Sunday, May 10.** Please speak to Chris Branca for more information (Cell: 609-713-8852).

-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!

-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!!

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.

-The 5th 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.

-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.

-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 on Sunday, June 28.

-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.

-Prayer Concern Privacy: As Christians, we fervently believe in the power of prayer — that's why we include prayer concerns in the weekly bulletin and lift folks up in prayer during worship! That said, the Consistory respectfully asks that before you add somebody to the prayer list or bring up their name during worship, please obtain that person's permission. We take medical privacy very seriously and make every effort to respect the wishes of individuals who do not want to be named publicly in a bulletin or live-streamed worship service. Thank you for your cooperation!

-We are looking for youth to serve as acolytes on Sunday mornings during the worship services. If your child is interested in helping and would like to learn more, please speak to Laura Carll, Pastor Ken or the church office. Training will be provided.

-Following many natural disasters, **Clean-Up Buckets** provide those affected with the essentials to begin getting their lives back in order. The Schuylkill Association, working with the UCC Disaster Ministries, helps provide these kits through Church World Services anywhere they are needed, to include right here in Schuylkill County. Our Association currently has over sixty empty five-gallon buckets that need to be filled. **If you would like to help in this ministry by coordinating the filling of some of the buckets or can donate materials or money to buy the required materials, please contact the church office.** Learn more at <https://cwskits.org/>.

-In an effort to keep our records up to date, please contact the church office if you have had a change to any of your information, including phone or cell phone numbers, email or home addresses, or any family updates.

-When you or a loved one is sick or in the hospital for an extended stay, do not assume that the pastor will know you are there. Please call or email the church office so that Pastor Ken can provide you with spiritual care!

-Prayer is Powerful! Please call or email the church office with your prayer concerns. We believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you. **We have a prayer concerns email group AND also a prayer phone call chain for anyone interested.** Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to these lists.

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, Lee Miller, 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, *Tim Wapinsky*

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 3

Sunday, May 3

2:30 PM -Spring Schuylkill Association Meeting @ Zion's, Orwigsburg

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Den Meeting

Tuesday, May 5

10:00 AM -Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, May 6

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 7

5:30 - 7:00 PM -Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 10 -Mother's Day

-VBS Sandwich Orders due/ Red Geranium Orders due/Deadline for Progressive Dinner

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Joint Worship with Youth Sunday, the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries and the Phoebe Offering

-A Fellowship time of refreshments following worship in the fellowship hall

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

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 Tithely 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!

