

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST &
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Sunday, May 10, 2026

WELCOME TO

Youth Sunday



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

**Sixth Sunday of Easter, Youth Sunday, Mother’s Day,
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries and the Phoebe Ministries special offering**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor
Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist: Rae Ann Borger

The combined Lutheran and UCC Confirmation Classes participating in Youth Sunday are:

UCC: Class of 2026: Charlee Ferguson, Elias Nagle, Landon Shadle, Ella Sterner, Jonathan Warke

Class of 2027: Owen Borger, Kylah Ferguson, Lilly Krause, Blake Reber

Lutheran: Class of 2026: Lena Ferrence, Tanner Gormley, Tobias Lileck, Sadie Tokarick

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH.....Lena Ferrence

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, The prayer partner for the day is **St. Mark’s, Cressona.**

Please read the announcements that are in this downloadable bulletin, as well as those we post on our Facebook site, our emails, and our phone calls, and then help spread the word to those who do not have access to any of those messages.

INVOCATION.....Tobias Lileck

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE... ..Acolytes: Ella Sterner and Tanner Gormley

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”.....Jonny Warke

CALL TO WORSHIP.....Jonny Warke

Jonny: God made the world and everyone in it.

People: Our life and breath come from God.

Jonny: God made all nations under heaven.

People: We are all God’s offspring.

Jonny: Search for God in our time of worship.

People: When we search, we find God near. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 59.....“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

CALL TO CONFESSION.....Kylah Ferguson

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Maker and giver of all, forgive us when we are too preoccupied to notice your presence in our lives; when we walk through this world and fail to see the wonder of you upholding our lives and all creation; when we walk through our lives and fail to see you abiding with, within, and around us; when we walk through holy moments and fail to savor your presence, instead feeling abandoned in the vast sweep of life as each day rushes at us with its demands. Open our eyes to your presence, God of love, that we may lean on you, amen.

MOMENT OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

KYRIE.....Kylah Ferguson

Kylah: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Kylah: Christ, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Kylah: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON.....Kylah Ferguson

Kylah: Hear these words of Assurance: Beloved, when Jesus left the disciples, he gave us all a promise:

“I will not leave you orphaned!” For we, his disciples, live in him and he in us-the presence of God within and around all. What a promise! Take comfort! We are forgiven!

ALL: Blessed be our God!

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 PASSING OF CHRIST’S PEACE.....Owen Borger

Owen: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Owen: Let us share the Peace of Christ by greeting each other with the words, “Peace be with you.”

The congregation may be seated.

ENGAGING THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC.....“River in Judea”.....Landon Shadle

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE.....Lilly Krause

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION.....Elias Nagle

READING OF THE WORD

First reading: Book of Acts 17:22-31..... Elias Nagle

Responsive Reading: Psalm 66:8-20.....Sadie Tokarick

Sadie: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

People: who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

Sadie: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

People: You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

Sadie: you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

People: I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,

Sadie: those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

People: I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Sadie: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

People: I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

Sadie: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

People: But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

Sadie: Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

Epistle reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22.....Charlee Ferguson

Gospel: Gospel of John 14:15-21.....Owen Borger

Owen: 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.”
SR. CHOIR ANTHEM.....“Spirit, Come” by Jeff Lippencott
SERMON.....“Why I Believe”.....Jonny Warke, Landon Shadle, Tobias Lileck

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

Ushers: Charlee Ferguson, Jonny Warke, Tanner Gormley, Blake Reber

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 492.....“Spirit of the Living God”

CELEBRATION OF MAY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES.....Blake Reber
Maylee Grace, daughter of Bradley and Ashley Epler

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH- Apostles Creed in the form of a Litany.....Blake Reber

Blake: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Blake: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Blake: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.....Elias Nagle

Elias: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Elias: 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.....Ella Sterner

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.....Ella Sterner

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION.....Lilly Krause

Lilly: Wherever we are, we are in God.

People: Wherever we are, we are in Christ, and Christ is in us.

Lilly: Wherever we are, the Spirit abides with us and in us.

People: We go forth in peace and hope, upheld by God in every way.

Lilly: Let us go forth in faithfulness and trust.

People: May all see the Divine in and through us.

BENEDICTION.....Tobias Lileck

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 457.....“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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Portions of today’s worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC’s Book of Worship, Worship Elements by Rebecca Gaudino, and by Karen Clark Ristine and the 2020 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-A set of altar flowers is in memory of our mothers and in honor of all mothers by Lorraine and Earl Phillips.

-A set of altar flowers is in memory of our mothers, Dolores Weller and Beatrice Gilbert by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Gilbert.

-The bulletins are in memory of our grandmothers by Jonathan, Julie, Joel, Debbie, and Elisa Phillips.

-Offering on Sunday, May 3, 2025: \$2,520.00

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

-The May Communion Offering is designated to Phoebe Ministries.

-TODAY 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.

-Join us for Fellowship Time TODAY- a time for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our worship service. 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.

-Sandwich orders to support VBS are due TODAY. Order forms are available on the bulletin table. 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.

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

-TODAY is the deadline to sign up for the 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).

-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 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 tomorrow, May 11** beginning at 8:30am and **this 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 this 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 **next Sunday, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16 and September 20.** We will have a Blessing of the Bikes on our first ride next Sunday. 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!

-The Boy Scout Troop will be having a dine out day fundraiser at the Friedensburg Country Restaurant on Tuesday, May 19. Tickets will be available on the table in the narthex of the church or contact Lorna Palerino.

-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.

-A Kauffman's Chicken Meal Fundraiser to benefit the St. Paul's Bear Creek Campers will be held on Sunday, May 31. The cost is \$15 which includes ½ chicken, sides, drinks and dessert. The pickup time is 11:45am at the St. Paul's Lutheran church, and you have the option to eat in or take out! We encourage you to purchase tickets ahead of time to make sure to have enough for everyone. Contact Leah at (570) 617-7702 or catch up with her TODAY for tickets. Thank you for your support!

-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 sign-up 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.

-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.

