

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, May 17, 2026

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS



Jesus' ascension to Heaven depicted by John Singleton Copley in *Ascension* (1775)

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

Ascension Sunday / Seventh Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. Paul’s, Mahanoy City** 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.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Look to the heavens, people of God.

People: See the power of the Most High God.

Pastor: Christ ascends to heaven in glory.

People: Shout to God with cries of joy.

Pastor: Clap your hand, children of Love incarnate.

People: Sing praises to God, our king. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 323.....“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Life-giving God, we receive your blessing, but we don’t always feel worthy to receive it. Your call often confuses us and your love seems too generous. We worship and pray, yet we still count the times we fall short of what we think you expect of us. Your mercy is abundant, but we hesitate to open our hearts to receive it. Forgive us. Get our attention and draw us closer to you, that we may know the relief of your assurance. As we pray to you, hear our prayers. 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: God hears our faithful prayers and looks upon us with eyes filled with compassion.

People: We wait patiently for God’s Spirit, we wait in longing for the hope to which we are called.

Pastor: Christ advocates on our behalf; through him, 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, Trevor Smith

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 1:1-11 (Page 947)
Psalm: Psalm 47 (Read Responsively)

Lector: Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
People: For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

Lector: He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
People: He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves.

Lector: God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
People: Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

Lector: For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.
People: God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Lector: The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

Epistle: Ephesians 1:15-23 (Page 1017)
Gospel: Luke 24:44-53 (Page 920)

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.....“Magnify the Lord”- Words, Music and Arr. by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Incomprehensible Power”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 91.....“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison).....Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING RESPONSE & DEDICATION.....DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Lift your eyes to the heavens.
People: We lift them to the one who ascended in glory.
Pastor: Trust the power of God's Holy Spirit.
People: We embrace the one who clothe us with power.
Pastor: Go as witnesses of the risen Lord.
People: We celebrate the one who bring us eternal life.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 560....."I Love to Tell the Story"

SILENT MEDITATION

Acolytes take the Light out into the world.

POSTLUDE

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Portions of today's worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC's Book of Worship, Worship Connection by Nancy C. Townley on MinistryMatters.com, and by B.J. Beu from the 2026 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. CCLI Copyright License Number 3253621 and CCLI Streaming License Number 20179084.

-The altar flowers and bulletins are in memory of mother, Mary Ella Hoy.

-Offering on Sunday, May 10, 2025: \$2,723.00

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

-The May Communion Offering is designated to Phoebe Ministries. The June Communion Offering is designated to Red Creek Wildlife Center.

-There will be a Blessing of the Bikes and group motorcycle ride following worship TODAY.

-We are in need of help with weeding the church flower beds. Please contact the church office if you would like to help.

-Summer food drive- 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 are collecting now, 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 Boy Scout Troop will be having a dine out day fundraiser at the Friedensburg Country Restaurant this Tuesday, May 19. Tickets are 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 next 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 next 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.

-Next 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 next 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. Please contact Kelly at the church office if you would like 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.

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

-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.

-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.

-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 9:30am worship service Sunday, June 14. We will gather in the rear of the sanctuary. Catch up with old friends, make new ones, and stay up to date on everything happening at St. Paul's. Donations of treats (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins, etc.) are greatly appreciated.

-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.

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God’s help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, Drew Hikes, Jere Moyer, Lee Miller, Carol Boyer, Addison Faith Dodson, Galen Conover, Cassie Wolfe
CANCER PATIENTS: Rev. Gene Aulenbach, Al Basci, Joe Branca, James Connelly, 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 17

Sunday, May 17 –“Ride Your Motorcycle to Church Sunday”

- VBS Sandwich Sale Pick-up following worship
- Blessing of the bikes and motorcycle ride following worship

Monday, May 18

6:00 – 9:00 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

Tuesday, May 19

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, May 20

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 21

5:30 PM -Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 24 *Pentecost Sunday

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:00 AM -Memorial Service at the Monument

10:30 AM -Worship with the Rite of Confirmation, the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Strengthen the Church special offering

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalms 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

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!

