

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, May 24, 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
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Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

Pentecost Sunday
The Rite of Confirmation/ The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Strengthen the Church Offering

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **Pentecost and the Strengthen the Church Offering.**

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

(Communion note: This morning, as some of us are gathered together here at church while many are gathering with us virtually from their homes, we all are invited to the same table.

Those present this morning will be served communion elements in the pews.

Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)

Congratulations to our 2026 Confirmands: Charlee Ferguson, Elias Nagle, Landon Shadle, Ella Sterner and Jonathan Warke

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Listen! Do you hear a sound like the howling of a fierce wind?

People: Come, Holy Spirit!

Pastor: Look! Can you see flames of fire?

People: Come, Holy Spirit!

Pastor: Wait! Can you feel the power?

People: The Holy Spirit is here! Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 334.....“On Pentecost They Gathered”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Holy One, Divine Spirit, be with us now. It’s easy to feel like our gifts and our talents aren’t good enough for you. Help us see ourselves as part of a larger creation. While our gifts differ, each one is important, adding something wonderful to your world. Our gifts come from you, and they are what you want for us. Help us accept our own gifts. Enlarge our hearts, so that we may recognize and welcome others, each with differing gifts. 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: Don't be afraid! God's Holy Spirit brings you healing comfort and hope.

People: We are being prepared to serve God in some mighty ways.

Pastor: Rejoice! We are forgiven and God's Holy Spirit is with us always. 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, Mike Reber

Acts of the Apostles: Acts 2:1-21 (Page 948)

Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (Read Responsively)

Lector: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

People: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

Lector: There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

People: These all look to you to give them their food in due season;

Lector: when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

People: When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

Lector: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

People: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works—

Lector: who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

People: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Lector: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 (Page 999)

Gospel: John 7:37-39 (Page 930)

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....."Here's My Life" – Words and Music by Steve Ragsdale; Arranged by Hal Wright

MESSAGE FOR THE CONFIRMANDS

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION

INVITATION

SENTENCES

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CANDIDATES

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Almighty God, who in baptism received these your servants into the church, forgave their sins, and promised them eternal life, increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant love for others, joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward all people, goodness in evil times, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their ministry in the world; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ACT OF CONFIRMATION

PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

ADDRESS

QUESTION ABOUT PARTICIPATION

WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

Elder: Let us, the members of St. Paul’s Summer Hill United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

People: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

The congregation may be seated.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

CALL TO OFFERING

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 595.....“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

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 AND PASTORAL 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: Holy are you.....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:

Confirmands Communion:

The Sharing of the Elements:

(Communion elements will be served in the pews.

Please hold the bread and wine until all have been served and we partake of the meal together.)

Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of darkness into marvelous light, enable us now strengthened by this meal to declare your wonderful deed. Thank you, O God, for your steadfast love and may we praise you now and forever with heart, mind, soul and strength. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Go forth now as Pentecost people, filled with the Spirit, dreaming dreams, and seeing visions of God's possibilities.

People: We go forth, knowing we are beloved and blessed by a God who never leaves us alone.

Pastor: Go, to be surprised by the Spirit in all that you do and everywhere that you go.

People: We go, claiming our identity as Pentecost people filled with that most amazing and transforming Spirit.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 728.....“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

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 Mary Petrina Boyd from the 2025 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers are in memory of Mabel Edwards by Nancy and Garry Wesner.

-The bulletins are in honor of Lauren Smith’s Birthday, tomorrow, May 25th by parents David and Pauline and Trevor Smith.

-The boutonnieres are presented to the Confirmands by the members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

-The additional basket is in memory of those who served their country and gave their lives for their country by the Summit Station Amvets Post 114.

-The flower arrangement at the War Memorial is sponsored by Ronnie and Cookie Mengel.

-Offering on Sunday, May 17, 2025: \$2,020.00

-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.

-We will collect the Strengthen the Church (STC) offering TODAY. 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 by the bulletin basket.

-We are in need of weeding volunteers to help with the church flower beds. Please contact the church office if you would like to help. Many hands make light work.

-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 TODAY.** More information will follow via church newsletter, bulletins, email, text and Members of St. Paul's Facebook. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

-A Kauffman's Chicken Meal Fundraiser to benefit the St. Paul's Bear Creek Campers will be held next 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! Please speak to Kelly Palerino **TODAY** if you would like tickets. Thank you for your support!

-Summer food drive- As always, the goal is to reach 1000 items. 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 next 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 5th Sunday Offering next Sunday, May 31 is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. Special envelopes are available on the bulletin table in the narthex.

-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.

-Due to Pastor Ken attending the Keystone Conference Meeting, there will be no communion on Sunday, June 7.

-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.

-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 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, June 15 beginning at 8:30am and Friday, June 19 beginning at 12pm.** Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

-We have again designated the third Sunday of the month as "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday. The upcoming dates are June 21, July 19, August 16 and September 20. 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!

-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 to the sanctuary.

-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, **Brian Moyer, Earl Phillips, Pat Evans,** 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 Dobrolsky, 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 24

Sunday, May 24 *Pentecost Sunday

Monday, May 25 -Memorial Day/ Church offices closed

Thursday, May 27

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 31 -Trinity Sunday -Food challenge donations due

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism and the 5th Sunday offering (Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry)

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalms 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

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!

