

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, May 31, 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

**Trinity Sunday
The Sacrament of Baptism
5th Sunday Offering (Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry)**

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, is **the Keystone Conference Annual Meeting.**

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.

Congratulations to Adam and Morgan Zimmerman on the baptism of their daughter, Millie Renee Zimmerman.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Welcome this day to a celebration of God’s magnificent creation!

People: Thanks be to God the Creator who has made all that we have.

Pastor: Welcome this day to a recognition of God’s redeeming love!

People: Thanks to God the Redeemer who has given us God’s only Son as our Example and Teacher, Our Savior and Redeemer!

Pastor: Welcome this day to the joy of God’s Holy Spirit of truth and power!

People: Thanks to God the Sustainer who walks with us every day, guiding and guarding our steps. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 136.....“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of creation, we often imagine we must go it alone. Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Remind us, at such moments, of the “we” in your creation, the Three in our baptism, and the “one another” in our community. Comfort and empower us, as we gather in your Spirit. 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

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 Fessler

Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-2:4a (Page 1)
Psalm: Psalm 8 (Read Responsively)

Lector: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

People: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Lector: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

People: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

Lector: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

People: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (Page 1011)
Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 (Page 806)

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.....“Psalm 8”- Words and Music by Lowell Alexander; Arranged by Kyle Hill

SERMON.....“The Power of Three”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 680.....“Borning Cry”

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Invitation and Welcome

Address

Questions

Congregational Assent

Elder: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, the congregation of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, who are witnesses and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the ones about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ? If so please say, “We promise our love, support, and care.”

People: We promise our love, support, and care.

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.

Prayer of Baptism

Pastor: Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

The Blessing of the Water

Act of Baptism

Prayer for the Baptized

Pastor: Let us pray for the ones baptized today.....Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Introduction of the Baptized

Choral Response.....“This Child We Dedicate to Thee”

Presentation of the Gifts

Benediction

Pastor: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

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: As we leave this place, we go not as solitary individuals, but as the living, breathing community of the Triune God.

People: We go with the love of the Creator to guide us.

Pastor: We go with the grace of the Savior to redeem us.

People: We go with the power of the Spirit to empower us.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 142.....“Sing Praise to the Father”

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 Hans Holznagel from the 2020 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 are in memory of Geraldine and Merritt Runkle by the family.

-The additional arrangement of flowers is given to the glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of Millie Zimmerman by her loving family.

-Offering on Sunday, May 24, 2025: \$2,821.00

-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 the Red Creek Wildlife Center.

-The 5th Sunday Offering TODAY is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. Special envelopes are available on the bulletin table in the narthex.

-TODAY is the deadline for the Summer Food Drive donations. Contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 with any questions.

-There will be a VBS Planning Meeting this 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 this Friday to Sunday, 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 next Sunday, June 7.** The service will be led by Laura Carll.

-Our summer worship schedule will begin next 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 on 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.

-There will be a Consistory Meeting on Tuesday, June 16 beginning at 7:00pm.

-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!

-On Sunday, June 21 (Father's Day), we will be collecting a special offering designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries.

-Welcome to Rainforest Falls.... Exploring the Nature of God: Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Paul's UCC Monday through Friday, June 22-26 from 6 – 8:30pm. All children ages 4-12 (grade 6) are welcome and invited to attend. 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.**

-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.

-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.

-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, **family and friends Mary Bartolet, Eileen Witmeir, 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 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 31

Sunday, May 31 -Trinity Sunday/ Food challenge donations due/ 5th Sunday Offering for Food Pantry

Monday, June 1

6:00 PM -Meeting (conference room)

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, June 2

7:00 PM -VBS Planning Meeting

Friday, June 5 – Sunday, June 7

-Pastor Ken attending the Keystone Conference Annual Meeting at Millersville University

Sunday, June 7 -Summer time change

9:30 AM -Worship led by Laura Carll

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:1-12

Hos 5:15-6:6

Psalms 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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 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!

