



St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC June 2026 Newsletter



Pastor's Page

Greetings Summer Hill!

As we transition into the beautiful summer months, my heart is overflowing with gratitude. Truly, God is good, all the time; and all the time, God is good! We are experiencing a wonderful season of growth and renewal at St. Paul's, and the vibrant, joyful energy in our sanctuary is absolutely contagious.

Much of this exciting momentum is radiating from our incredible youth. On Mother's Day, May 10th, we celebrated Youth Sunday, which was entirely led by the thirteen talented members of our confirmation class. What a spectacular service it was! We welcomed 170 people into our pews—nearly double our average weekly attendance. The spirit in the room was electric. This past Sunday, on Pentecost, we carried that momentum forward as we witnessed five of our own young adults affirm their baptismal vows: Charlee Ferguson, Elias Nagle, Landon Shadle, Ella Sterner, and Jonathan Warke.

Seeing these five confirmands take ownership of their faith, supported by their peers from St. Paul's Lutheran and our first-year confirmands, was a mountaintop experience. Our youth and their families are a profound blessing and a vital part of our future. As Jesus reminded us in Matthew 19:14, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* We owe a debt of gratitude to our new Director of Youth Ministries, Laura Carll, who has been doing a phenomenal job recruiting families and guiding our young people. That dedication is carrying right into our annual Vacation Bible School, coming up June 22–26. Last year, we welcomed 32 children to VBS. This year, we already have over 50 children registered, and we hope to see that number grow!

But to keep this momentum going, we need everyone. Imagine the impact we could make if every family invited just one neighbor, classmate, or friend to join us. We are a growing, active body of Christ, and there is so much more we can accomplish if we stretch our wings. If you have ideas for new fellowship opportunities, mission projects, or if you simply want to put your unique spiritual gifts to work in a new way, please share them with me or a member of the Consistory. Your hands and your heart are what make St. Paul's a home.

With summer officially arriving, we will shift to our summer worship schedule starting June 7th. We will gather at **9:30 AM** (with no Sunday School). Our summer Sundays will feature a wonderfully consistent rhythm:

- **First Sunday of the month:** Sacrament of Holy Communion (Note: There will be no communion on June 7th, as I will be attending the first Annual Meeting of our new Keystone Conference of the UCC, where I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors).
- **Second Sunday of the month:** Fellowship time with coffee and treats following worship.
- **Third Sunday of the month:** "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday, with a ride immediately following the service.
- **Fourth Sunday of the month:** Outdoor worship on the front lawn (remember to bring your favorite lawn chair or blanket!).

Enjoy these warm, sunny days and the beauty of God's creation. Please stay safe in your travels, keep our faith family in your prayers, and continue to shine Christ's love in our community.

Summer Hill Blessings,

Pastor Ken

Communion Offering

The June Communion Offering is designated to the Red Creek Wildlife Center.

The July Communion Offering is designated to the One Rock One Community Gospel event.

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 Hymn of Reflection after the sermon 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!



Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

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

Keystone Conference Annual Meeting

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.

Summer Worship Schedule

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.

Fellowship Time

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.

Calling All Graduates

During our 9:30am outdoor worship service on **Sunday, June 28**, we will be recognizing and congratulating the graduates from our congregation. 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.

Schuylkill Haven Area Food Pantry

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.

Consistory Meeting

The Consistory will meet on **Tuesday, June 16** at 7:00pm in the conference room.

Weeding Volunteers Needed

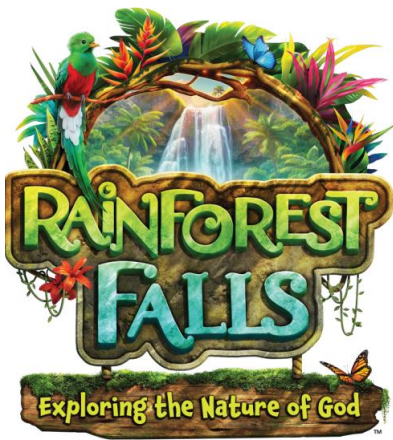
We are in need of weeding volunteers to help with the church flower beds. Please contact the church office if you would like to help. Many hands make light work.

Motorcycle Sunday

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!

Special Offering

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 **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. No child will be turned away, however, to guarantee that there will be enough supplies for every child, we would like to have children registered. Please contact the church office for more information. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

Outdoor Worship

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 and held in the sanctuary.

Youth Acolytes Needed

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.

Sunday School News

"The Lord is my shepherd, I lack Nothing."
-Psalms 23:1

This Sunday School year has flown by. I hope everyone had a wonderful year of learning and fellowship, and we will see everyone in September for a new Sunday School year. We hope you have a wonderful summer.

Hoping to see everyone in June for VBS- Rainforest Falls, June 22nd- 26th. We can't wait to see everyone then. Until then have a wonderful summer/vacations and see you in September!!

Christian Education Secretary,
Amy Zimmerman



Your Consistory met on May 19, 2026 and discussed the following items:

Briefly mentioned the repairs to the sanctuary storm windows.

Discussed some progress made with Servant Keeper, planning to be ready in the coming months.

Noted the newly hired Cleaning Person Stacy Fidler will begin work starting June 1

Shared the success of the church's Yard Sale on May 2; planning to have another one next spring.

Graduation Recognition Sunday will be on June 28, 2026

June Communion offering will support the Red Creek Wildlife Center

July Communion offering will support One Rock One Community Event

August Communion offering will support the Alzheimer's Association

The next Consistory Mtg. will be held on June 16, 2026.

Respectfully yours,
Trevor Smith, Secretary



On Sunday, May 24 we welcomed five new members into our church family through the Rite of Confirmation. There

was a total of 9 second-year Confirmation students including 4 youth from St. Paul's Summer Hill Lutheran Church: **Lena Ferrence, Tanner Gormley, Tobias Lileck and Sadie Tokarick.** (Our first-year class consists of Owen Borger, Kyla Ferguson, Lilly Krause and Blake Reber.)

Charlee Joanna Ferguson

Charlee is the daughter of CJ and Kayla Ferguson, Schuylkill Haven. She attends Schuylkill Haven School District and her Confirmation mentor was Robin Ferguson.

Elias Joseph Nagle

Elias is the son of Joe and Tamara Nagle, Auburn. He is homeschooled and his Confirmation mentor was Clint Clauser.

Landon Tyler Shadle

Landon is the son of Bobby Hillbush and Courtney Shadle, Cressona. He attends Blue Mountain School District and his Confirmation mentor was Laura Carll.

Ella Sophia Sterner

Ella is the daughter of Wade and Diona Sterner, Friedensburg. She attends Blue Mountain School District and her Confirmation mentor was Mike Reber.

Jonathan Richard Warke

Jonathan is the son of Jeremy and Lynn Warke, Auburn. He attends Schuylkill Haven School District and his Confirmation mentor was Jeff Palerino.

Thank You!!

-to Dean and Lori Edwards for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for June 2026

-to Bill Reber and Ron Faust for mowing and weed whacking the church lawn in April and May

-to our "weeding elf" for working to make our flower beds look beautiful! We are so grateful for you!

-Dear Friends,

Thank you on behalf of Franklin Graham for your support of Samaritan's Purse. I want you to know how much we appreciate your gifts and prayers. As we minister to the physical needs of suffering people, we bring the Good News of salvation and eternal hope through Jesus Christ. Your generosity enables us to touch lives around the globe, both now and for eternity. May God abundantly bless you.

In Christ's Service, Bob

*"When a father gives to his son, both laugh;
when a son gives to his father, both cry."*

—William Shakespeare

Confirmation Class Sign-ups

It's time to register for Confirmation class. 1st year confirmation classes are available to any young adult turning 12 or entering 7th grade this year.

To register, please turn in a completed form to the church office by **Sunday, September 6**. Confirmands will identify someone to serve as their mentor. Mentors must be either persons currently serving on Consistory or a member of the Spiritual Council and may not be immediate family members.

Confirmation Classes will begin on Rally Day **Sunday, September 13** at 9:15 AM, with a confirmand, parent and mentor meeting. At this time, confirmation requirements and expectations will be reviewed with confirmands, their parents and mentors signing the Confirmation Covenant. A blessing of the Confirmands will be conducted during the Worship service following the meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Ken McDowell.

* * *

Eligible Mentors:

Current Consistory Members...

Pam Clauser	Clint Clauser
Robin Ferguson	Kathy Kline
Mike Rubinkam	Lori Moyer
Jeff Palerino	Kelly Palerino
Mike Reber	Trevor Smith
Terri Saunders	Tom Saunders

Spiritual Council Members...

Mike Reber	Brian Clauser
Rob Clauser	Verna Ebling
Debra Koch	Lori Moyer
Paul Moyer	Earl Phillips
Bill Reber	Libby Zimmerman
Pam Clauser	Cookie Mengel
Jeffrey Palerino	Eric Reber
Tom Nagle	Helen Michelson
Ray Riegel	Mike Fessler
Kathy Kline	Robin Ferguson

Confirmation Class Registration Form

Name: _____
(please include middle name)

Address: _____

Parents: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Parent Cell Phone #: _____

Confirmand Cell Phone #: _____

Parent Email: _____

Confirmand Email: _____

Grade Entering in the Fall: _____

School: _____

Birth Date: _____

Baptismal Date: _____

Baptismal Church: _____

Mentor: _____

The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:



June 7- Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9
Psalm 33:1-12
Hos 5:15-6:6
Psalm 50:7-15
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

June 14- Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
Exodus 19:2-8a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 21- Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Jeremiah 20:7-13
Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15),16-18
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

June 28-- Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

July 5-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Birthdays

- 1 - Richard Reis
- 3 - Amy Crouse
 - Adalyn Marra
- 4 - Natalie Rubinkam
 - Kate Rubinkam
 - Brandon Elo
- 5 - Mark Palerino
 - Jackie Eckert
 - Brandon Fry
 - Darren Heim
- 6 - Charles Eckert
 - David Deibert
 - Hannah Nagle
- 8 - Katie Miller
- 12 - Jessica Kehl
 - Kaylee Kerchner
- 13 - Esther (Cookie) Mengel
- 15 - Nelson Moyer
 - Charles H. Fix
- 16 - Shirley Deguire
- 17 - Ronald A. Faust
- 23 - Cindy Clauser
 - Elijah Shawver
- 24 - John Ulsh
 - Deborah Reed
 - Stephany Krause
- 26 - Kelly Palerino
 - Connor Kerstetter
- 27 - Nancy Wesner
 - Ann McDowell
- 28 - Denise Miller
- 30 - Vicky Borger
 - Callie Palerino
 - Heather Carey

June Anniversaries

- 2 - Larry and Sally Reber
 - Dustin and Brittany Deibert
- 4 - Dawn and Bill Mattes
- 10 - Kevin and Jill Kerstetter
- 11 - John and Beth Satterwhite
- 13 - David and Pauline Smith
- 14 - Deborah and Gregory Reed
- 15 - Nancy and Peter VanDeest
 - Jessica and Gregory Kehl
- 18 - Rebecca and Mark McBreen
- 22 - Steven and Janet Pagotto
- 24 - John and Linda Epler
- 26 - Tom and Lucinda Nagle
- 28 - Brian and Cindy Clauser
- 30 - Earl and Lorraine Phillips
 - Paul and Sharon Shealer

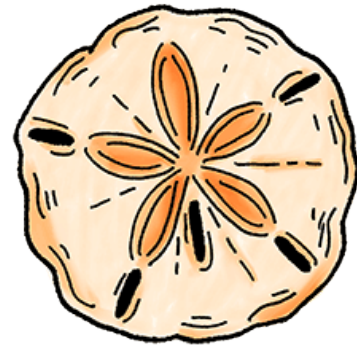
June Baptismal Anniversaries

- Matthew William, son of Christopher Krause and Ashley Heffner Hasenauer
- Elias Joseph, son of Joseph and Tamara Nagle
- Abram Joseph, son of Joseph and Tamara Nagle
- Connor Anthony, son of Jonathan and Melissa Rodnick
- Jett Wilson, son of Justin and Kelly Clauser
- Brantley Irvin, son of Michael and Sarah Wolfe
- Damien Joseph, son of Michael and Sarah Wolfe
- Gatlin James, son of Michael and Sarah Wolfe
- Caroline Grace, daughter of Adam and Laura Carll
- William James, son of Adam and Laura Carll
- Silas Aaron, son of Josiah and Angela Meck
- Titus Richard, son of Josiah and Angela Meck
- Wesson Nicholas, son of Kayla Jones and Vincent Hoppes
- Bailey Louise, daughter of Kayla Jones and Vincent Hoppes

*“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap
but by the seeds that you plant.”*

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Christian Symbol



SAND DOLLAR — These delicate shells, found in shades of white, tan and soft purple, come from sea urchins related to starfish and sea cucumbers. Their unique markings have long been associated with the story of Christ’s birth and death. The faint images resemble a poinsettia and a lily, symbols often connected to Christmas and Easter. Five small openings are said to represent the four nails and the spear used at the crucifixion. Inside the shell are tiny shapes that look like doves, a reminder of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Quiz

King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshiping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David’s son, to head up the building program. Why wasn’t David allowed the honor of building the temple?

- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David’s attention was required elsewhere.

Answer: B (1 Chronicles 28:3)

Special Dates

- Flag Day, *June 14, 2026*
- Juneteenth, *June 19, 2026*
- Father's Day, *June 21, 2026*
- First Day of Summer, *June 21, 2026*

The Quiet Power of Faithfulness

The greatest forces in the universe are rarely spectacular. Gentle summer showers often do more lasting good than hurricanes, though they draw little attention. The world depends on the faithfulness, loyalty and dedication of countless people whose names are never known.

Every life, no matter how humble, has a role in shaping a better world and a more beautiful tomorrow. It is easy to overvalue what seems impressive and underestimate what appears ordinary. Yet lasting change is most often built through quiet commitment, patient service and faithful hearts doing what matters most, day after day.

Our Church is to Be “Sold”

Our church is to be sold! That statement may sound alarming at first, but rest assured, we are not facing foreclosure or financial trouble. Instead, our church has been planted with a purpose that reaches far beyond its walls and membership. It exists to serve the wider community and to share the hope of Christ with those who may not yet know him. That calling presents us with an exciting challenge.

Our church must be “sold” to the unchurched. There are many people in our community who would gladly worship, serve and grow alongside us if they simply knew what our church offers. Often, the greatest barrier is not resistance, but lack of invitation.

Each of us represents our church every day through our words, attitudes and actions. How much do we value its ministry? How much do we treasure the message of Christ it proclaims? If our church has encouraged us, supported us and helped shape our faith, that story is worth sharing.

Being enthusiastic does not require polished speeches or sales tactics. It simply means speaking honestly about what our church means to us and inviting others to experience it for themselves. When we take our church seriously and talk openly about its mission, we help open doors for others to discover faith, community and hope they did not know they were missing.

From Gratitude to Faithful Praise



Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude.

Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God’s presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain moments, opens our eyes to God’s faithfulness already at work.

As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God’s past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again.

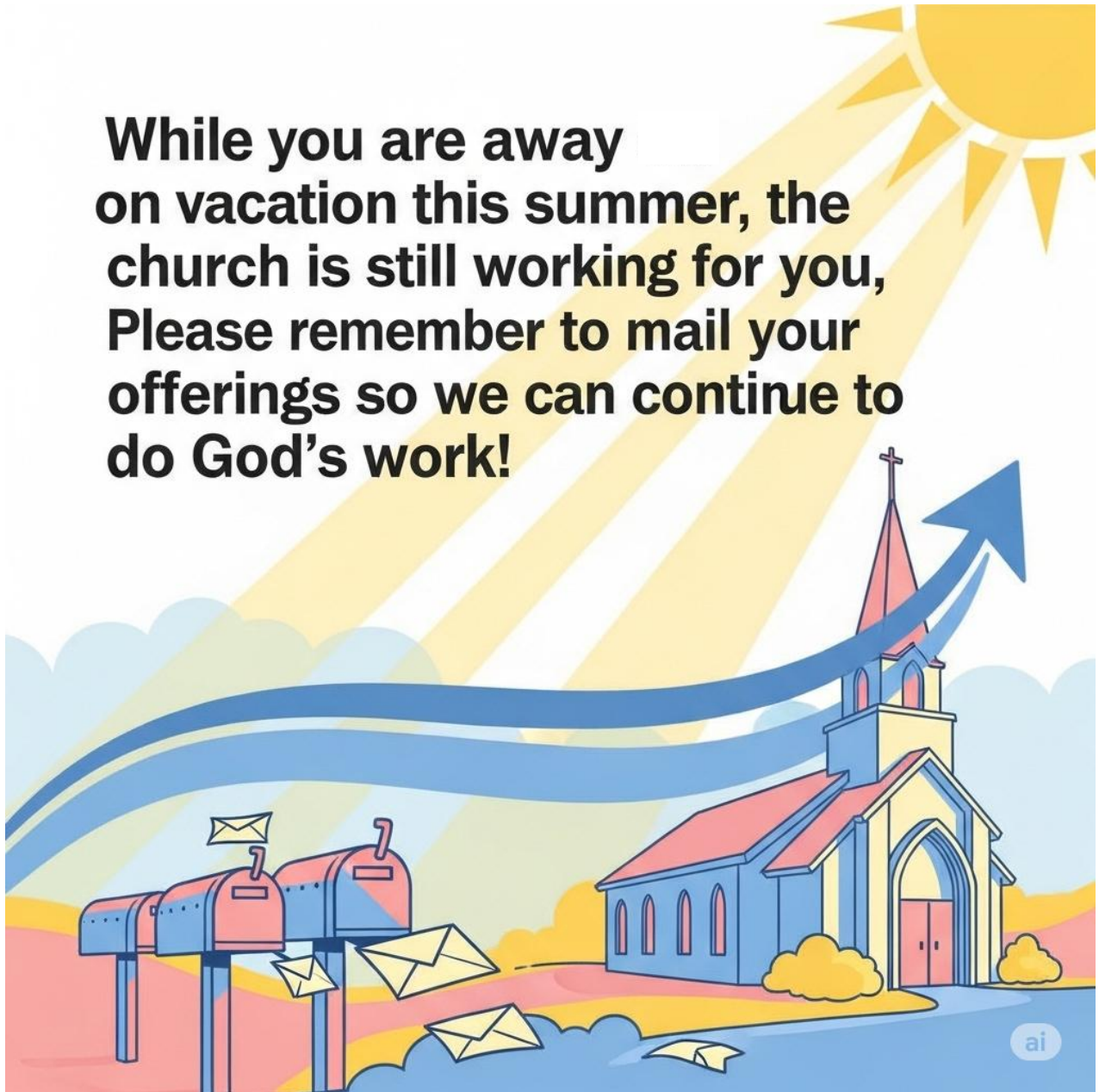
Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.

“A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when the forget-me-nots are withered. Carve your name on hearts, and not on marble.”

—Charles H. Spurgeon

STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

**While you are away
on vacation this summer, the
church is still working for you,
Please remember to mail your
offerings so we can continue to
do God's work!**



When you cannot worship with us in person, please consider donating through your online banking services, or try giving a recurring or one-time gift at the following link: [TINYURL.COM/GIVETOSUMMERHILL](https://tinyurl.com/givetosummerhill)

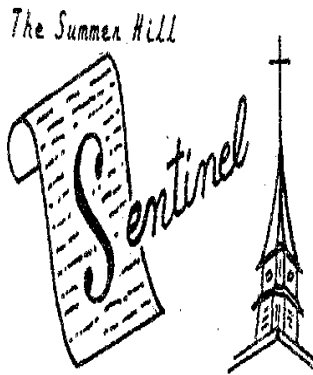
Or mail offerings:

St. Paul's UCC
1235 Summer Hill Road
Auburn, PA 17922



June 2026

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
1235 Summer Hill Road
Auburn, PA 17922**



Church Phone: 570-754-7225

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor: 610-207-4783

Office Hours: Monday– Thursday 9am - 2pm

Email: summerhillucc@gmail.com

Website: www.summerhillucc.com

Address Service Requested

Visit the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ- <https://keystoneucc.org/>

Visit the United Church of Christ – www.ucc.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell

Church Administrator: Kelly Palerino

Cleaning Person: Stacy Fidler

Director of Youth Ministries: Laura Carll

Music Director/ Pianist: Rae Ann Borger

Organists: Colin Andrew/ Jacob Challenger
(Supply)

Church Leadership

Consistory President: Pam Clauser

Consistory Vice President: Jeff Palerino

Consistory Secretary: Trevor Smith

Consistory Assistant Secretary: Terri Saunders

Treasurer: Lori Moyer

Financial Secretary: Kathy Kline

Consistory Elders: Robin Ferguson, Jeff Palerino and Mike Reber

Consistory Trustees: Clint Clauser, Kelly Palerino and Trevor Smith

Stewardship/Mission- Deacons of Consistory: ,
Lori Moyer, Tom and Terri Saunders, Kathy Kline, Mike Rubinkam and Pam Clauser

Board of Christian Education Chairperson & Summer Hill Youth Group: Laura Carll

Board of Christian Education Vice-Chairperson: Vicky Borger

Board of Christian Education Secretary:
Amy Zimmerman

Sunday Morning Coordinator: Trevor Smith

Assistant Sunday Coordinator: David Deibert

Budget Committee: Pam Clauser

Personnel Committee: Lori Moyer

Prayer Shawl Ministry Chair: Nancy Dewald

Altar Committee Chairperson: Kelly Palerino

June 2026