


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, June 28, 2026**



And whoever in the name  
of a disciple gives to one  
of these little ones *even a  
cup of cold water to drink,*  
truly I say to you, *he shall  
not lose his reward."*

Matthew 10:42

**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](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)

**Livestream:** [www.facebook.com/summerhillucc](http://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
Outdoor Worship Service/ Graduation Recognition**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UCC.**

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 the following graduates:**

**College-** Jacob Challenger, Logan Koch, Kaitlyn Reber and Kate Rubinkam

**High School-** Nathan Elo, Thomas Herring and Caden Moyer

*For safety, the congregation may remain seated throughout the entire service, but feel free to stand at any time in response to the urging of the Holy Spirit.*

INVOCATION

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

PRELUDE

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: When the Lord seems far away,

**People: may we place our faith in God.**

Pastor: When God's face is hidden from us,

**People: may we put our trust in God's steadfast love.**

Pastor: When our souls bear the pain of earthly trials,

**People: may we seek God's strength, lest we break.**

Pastor: Let us place our trust in God's goodness and mercy.

**People: Our hearts rejoice in God's salvation. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 112....."You Servants of God"

*1 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.*

*2 God rules in the heights, almighty to save;  
though hid from our sight, his presence we have;  
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.*

*3 "Salvation to God who sits on the throne!"  
let all cry aloud and honor the Son:  
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.*

*4 Then let us adore and give him his right,  
all glory and power, all wisdom and might:  
all honor and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Merciful God, as we travel the difficult paths of life, it is easy to forget that you are always there, even when we feel abandoned and alone. Help us move beyond our anguish, Holy One, that we might set aside our self-absorption, even as we seek your salvation. Lead us in the ways of life, for we yearn to feel your presence amid our deepest despair. Elevate our hearts and minds above our fear and doubt, that we may embrace your grace and mercy. 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.*

**ENGAGING THE WORD**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Genesis 22:1-14

Psalm: Psalm 13 (**Read responsively**)

Lector: How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

**People: How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**

Lector: Consider and answer me, O LORD my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

**People: and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.**

Lector: But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

**People: I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

Epistle Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:40-42

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."*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 589.....“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

*1 O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me thy secret: help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.*

*3 Teach me thy patience--still with thee in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong;*

*4 In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future’s broadening way,  
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.*

**RECOGNITION OF 2026 GRADUATES**

**The Call to Celebration**

Pastor: Today, we pause to celebrate a milestone of dedication, growth, and perseverance. We recognize our graduates who have completed chapters in high school, technical schools, and universities.

**People: We rejoice with you, and we give thanks for the unique gifts, skills, and intelligence God has nurtured within you.**

**The Act of Recognition**

Pastor: To those who have completed high school: as you step into new classrooms, workplaces, or adventures, carry the wisdom of this community with you.

**People: May God guide your steps and grant you courage.**

Pastor: To those who will enter the trades, or have completed technical and trade certifications: as you master complex systems, build, repair, and apply your specialized expertise to serve the world, carry God's integrity with you.

**People: May God bless the work of your hands and grant you precision and purpose.**

Pastor: To those who have completed university degrees: as you enter fields of deeper inquiry, leadership, and professional practice, carry Christ’s humility and truth with you.

**People: May God expand your vision and grant you a spirit of service.**

**The Graduate’s Prayer**

Pastor: Let us pray. Faithful God, we thank you for the journey that brought these young people to this day. You have been their anchor through late nights, demanding exams, hands-on labs, and moments of uncertainty. As they turn the page to what comes next, we ask that you clear their path. For those entering the workforce, grant them favor, strong mentorship, and safe environments. For those continuing their education, grant them sharp minds and a hunger for truth. Wherever they go, remind them that their identity is rooted in you, not just their achievements. Keep them close to your heart, protect them in transitions, and use their diverse talents to bring light to a changing world. We commit them to your care, trusting that the good work you began in them will be brought to completion. Amen.

**The Congregational Charge**

Pastor: Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good.

**People: Our prayers go with you. This church will always be a home for you. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)..United Church of Christ Statement of Faith– adapted by Robert V. Moss

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother,  
and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being,  
creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.**

**God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness  
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,**

**God has come to us and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.**

**God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.**

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

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: Even when the Lord seems far away and our faith is sorely tested,

**People: we will put our trust in God's steadfast love.**

Pastor: Even when our souls bear the pain of earthly trials and our strengths seems to slip away,

**People: we will trust God's goodness and mercy.**

Pastor: Even when we question God's presence in our lives and our hearts feel heavy with fear,

**People: we go forth as those sanctified with eternal life.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 408.....“I Am Thine, O Lord”

*1 I am thine, O Lord– I have heard thy voice,  
and it told thy love to me;  
but I long to rise in the arms of faith  
and be closer drawn to thee.*

**Refrain:** *Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to the cross where thou hast died;  
draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to thy precious, bleeding side.*

*2 Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord,  
by the power of grace divine;  
let my soul look up with a steadfast hope  
and my will be lost in thine. [Refrain]*

*3 O the pure delight of a single hour  
that before thy throne I spend,  
when I kneel in prayer and with thee, my God,  
I commune as friend with friend. [Refrain]*

*4 There are depths of love that I cannot know  
till I cross the narrow sea;  
there are heights of joy that I may not reach  
till I rest in peace with thee. [Refrain]*

SILENT MEDITATION

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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.  
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-The altar flowers are in memory of Mrs. Paul Clauser Sr. by the family.

-The bulletins are in honor of the wedding anniversary of Ron and Deb Koch on July 1 by Bob, Brook, Shanelle, Gavin, Garrett, Gaige, Chase, Brock, Pam, Miranda, Logan, and Paige.

-Offering on Sunday, June 21, 2026: \$1,841.00

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

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

**-The Vacation Bible School Mission Project is the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry. Donations can be placed in the designated box or given to Bill Reber.**

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend **the Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, July 7** at 7pm. The meeting will take place downstairs in room B1. Please speak to Laura Carll, any Sunday School teacher, Pastor Ken or the church office for more info.

**-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 9:30am worship service Sunday, July 12.** 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.

-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, July 13** beginning at 8:30am and **Friday, July 17** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

**-The third Sunday of the month is "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday.** A group ride will follow the service. The upcoming dates are **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 be added to the "Biker" email list!

**-The Consistory will meet on Tuesday, July 21 and Tuesday, August 18** at 7:00pm in the conference room.

**-Outdoor worship services will be held on Sunday, July 26 and Sunday, August 23** beginning at 9:30am. Grab your lawn chair or favorite blanket and join us once again amidst the beauty of God's creation. In case of inclement weather, the services will be moved inside and held in the sanctuary.

**-We could use a few more 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.

**-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, **Joe Palerino, Chris Branca,** Lori Krug, Jill Norsworthy, Dick Clauser, Pegi Kooser, 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 Dobrolsky, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, **Kristen Gately**, 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, JUNE 28**

**Saturday, July 4 -Independence Day**

**Sunday, July 5**

9:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

**\*Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Psalms 45:10-17

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

**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!

