



## St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC July & August 2026 Newsletter



### Pastor's Page

Greetings Summer Hill!

I don't know about you, but as soon as the calendar turns to July, I always feel a sudden urge to hit the "pause" button. We spend all spring anticipation-building for the warmth and sunshine of summer, and then—blink!—and June has already slipped through our fingers. It is a season that moves as fast as a rushing mountain stream, but what a beautiful, spirit-filled rush it has been.

From June 22nd to 26th, our church was completely transformed into a lush, vibrant jungle for our "Rainforest Falls" Vacation Bible School. I am absolutely thrilled to share that we had 55 children enrolled this year! Through every song, craft, and lesson, these children discovered what it means to be rooted in a relationship with God, their Creator. In a world that often feels like a swirling storm, we wanted to give them a sure foundation—a reminder that God is always our ultimate safe place.

I want to extend a massive thank you to all the volunteers who poured their energy, time, and love into making this week such an overwhelming success. You are the hands and feet of Christ, helping our youth plant deep roots of faith that will last a lifetime.

Speaking of deep roots, this July is an incredibly historic one. This July 4th, our nation celebrates its milestone 250th Anniversary! Two and a half centuries of history, resilience, and growth. As we watch the fireworks, gather for picnics, and see the red, white, and blue lining our streets, we pause to give humble thanks for the immense blessings of living in this great land. We pray for all those who serve to protect our freedoms, and we remember the sacrifices that keep us safe. And as always, while I proudly display our nation's flag, I am reminded that our earthly freedom is a reflection of the even greater, eternal freedom we have in Christ.

Just like those towering trees in the rainforest, our nation's history and our church's history are built on deep roots. And those roots show themselves in the fruit we bear together. This summer is bursting with

opportunities to fellowship and grow in faith. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, we will cheer on the Reading Fightin Phils! Throughout the coming weeks, I encourage you to plunge into our other summer activities: outdoor worship services, kayaking trips, golf outings, youth group events, motorcycle rides, nature hikes, and church camps. There is truly something for everyone to enjoy the glorious great outdoors God has provided.

But being rooted also means reaching out. Even as we play, we continue to love our neighbors by volunteering at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry and supporting the essential missions of the Council of Churches, the Schuylkill Association, and the Keystone Conference of the UCC.

Looking even further ahead, we are already preparing the soil for our autumn ministries. Rally Day is set for September 13th! We will kick off our fall church schedule with our first day of Sunday school classes and a wonderful church-wide picnic.

If your summer plans involve traveling near or far, please know that your church family holds you in prayer for a safe journey and a joyful return. And as you travel, please remember that the vital daily ministries of St. Paul's do not take a summer vacation. Even when you cannot be with us in person on Sunday morning, your consistent tithes and offerings are deeply appreciated and needed to keep our ministries flowing as strongly as those rainforest waterfalls.

To tie all of these beautiful summer threads together, I am reminded of the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

*"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." (Jeremiah 17:7-8, NRSV)*

This summer, let us stay close to the living water. Let us stay rooted in relationship with our Creator, secure in our freedoms, active in our service, and generous in our hearts.

Overflowing Blessings, Pastor Ken

## Communion Offering

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

The August Communion Offering is designated to the Alzheimer's Association.

---

## 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 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!



---

## Summer Worship Schedule

Our summer worship schedule will continue during the months of July and August, with worship held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. There is no Sunday School during this time. Worship Services will resume at 10:30am on **Sunday, September 6**. There will be no Sunday School on September 6. Sunday School will resume at 9:15am on Rally Day, **September 13**.

## Board of Christian Education Meeting

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 7:00pm. 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 information.

---

## Fellowship Time

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

---

## 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, July 13** beginning at 8:30am and **Friday, July 17** beginning at 12pm. We will also be helping on **Monday, August 17** beginning at 8:30am and **Friday, August 21** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

---

## Motorcycle Sunday

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!

## Consistory Meeting

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

---

## Outdoor Worship

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.

---

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering

We will collect a special 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offering on **Sunday, August 30** which is designated to the Pastor's Emergency Relief Fund.

---

## Mark Your Calendars for Sunday School Rally Day

Everyone is invited to join us for Rally Day on **Sunday, September 13!** There is something for everyone as we begin a new year of faith, learning, and fellowship.

Sunday School will resume this day for children and adults and continue each Sunday at 9:15am, followed by worship at 10:30am. Confirmation classes will also begin at 9:15am with a meeting for confirmands, parents, and mentors.

During our 10:30am worship service, we will offer a blessing for our Sunday School teachers, leaders, and confirmands as they begin a new year of ministry and faith formation.

After worship, we will gather in the church picnic grove for food, fellowship, and fun! Hamburgers, hot dogs, and snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring a favorite dish or dessert to share, along with a lawn chair, blanket, or kid-friendly outdoor games if you wish.

We look forward to celebrating the start of a new year together. We hope you'll join us!

## 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

*"Blessed is the Nation whose God is Lord"* -  
Psalm 33:12

We had such a fun time at VBS with our friends, doing fellowship and learning more about Jesus/God. A big Thank You to all the kids and Volunteers and our Lutheran friends that helped all week.

We can't wait to see you on September 13th, 2026 for Our Annual Rally Day Kick off for Sunday School. Until then have a great Summer!

Sincerely, Christian Education Secretary  
Amy Zimmerman

Important Dates:

**July 7th, 2026-** Christian Education Committee Meeting @ 7:00pm

---



Your Consistory met on June 16, 2026 and discussed the following items:

Discussed some progress made with the website, sorting through our various membership records for upload.

Mentioned the suggestion of replacing the sanctuary back door along the east wall of the church

Noted the newly hired Cleaning Person Stacy Fidler began work on June 1

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 July 21, 2026.

Respectfully yours,  
Trevor Smith, Secretary

---

## United in Faith, Serving Our Communities



The Keystone Conference is a community of believers from four United Church of Christ conferences across Pennsylvania, working together in ministry, mission, and mutual support.

Visit the informative website to learn more:

<https://keystoneucc.org/>

---

## Thank You!!

-to those members who contributed their Thrivent Choice Dollars® in the amount of \$386

-to Bill and Bonnie Reber for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for July 2026

-to Ron and Cookie Mengel for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for August 2026

-to Rich Clauser for mowing and weed whacking the church lawn in June

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

-to all the leaders, helpers, families and kids who made VBS great again this year!

# Baptism

## Millie Renee Zimmerman

Millie, daughter of Adam and Morgan (Omlor) Zimmerman, was baptized by Rev. Ken McDowell on Trinity Sunday, May 31, 2026. She was born at 5:14am on December 13, 2025 at Penn State St. Joe's Medical Center. She weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz and was 21 inches long. Millie's grandparents are Joe & Cheryl Zimmerman and Jeffrey & Michelle (deceased) Omlor, and her proud Aunts are Jackie Omlor and Amy Zimmerman. Millie's Godparents are Jackie Omlor and Michael Kramer. An interesting note: Millie's gender was a surprise!

---

## Christian Symbol



**SHELL** — A scallop shell, often shown pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is a Christian symbol of baptism and the washing away of sin. The three drops of water represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

From the earliest centuries of the church, the shell was connected with baptism because it could be used to pour water over a person's head. In a time when many baptisms took place in rivers, lakes or outdoor settings, a simple shell served as a natural vessel, reminding believers that God uses humble, ordinary things to accomplish sacred purposes.

Today, the scallop shell continues to appear in baptismal fonts, church art and Christian design. It quietly proclaims the message of baptism: washed by grace, claimed by God and welcomed into the family of faith.



## College Graduates

**Jacob Challenger**

**Logan Koch**

**Kaitlyn Reber**

Kaitlyn is the daughter of Eric and Kristy Reber. She graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. During her time in college, she was the Secretary of the University of Florida Student Nurses Association. Kaitlyn plans to work as a Pediatric Nurse.

**Kate Rubinkam**

Kate is the daughter of Michael and Amy Rubinkam. She graduated from Ursinus College where she earned a Bachelors Degree. Kate majored in Political Science and International Relations and minored in Spanish. During her time in college, she was a member of the tennis team, Best Buddies, Admissions Tour Guide and Model U.N. Kate received the following special honor: Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She is currently working for Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development.

## High School Graduates

**Nathan Elo**

Nathan is the son of Dan and Tanya Elo. He graduated from the Blue Mountain School District. Nathan was enrolled in Precision Machining at Schuylkill Technology Center. During his time in high school, he was involved in the Ski and Snowboard Club and Skills USA. Nathan received the following special honors: Student of the Month for Precision Machining 3 times, Blue Mountain STC Student of the month, Honor Roll, and YES Program Scholarship. Nathan also worked at Sunny Cupboard. His future plans are to attend Penn State.

**Thomas Herring**

Thomas is the son of Wayne Herring and Katherine Patterson. He graduated from the Blue Mountain School District where he was also involved in Wrestling. In his spare time, Thomas enjoys hunting and fishing. He is currently in Northwest Colorado through November working as a pack wrangler for Rivers Bend Outfitters. When he returns home, he will resume work in excavation and heavy equipment operating.

**Caden Moyer**

## Congratulations Graduates!!

---

### Why Me?

When we’re faced with unexpected hardship, our first impulse is often to ask, “Why me, O God? Why me?”

Yet when a blessing comes our way, we receive it with gratitude and rarely ask the same question: “Why me, O God? Why me?”

---

### Our Awesome God

When our lives are focused on God, awe and wonder lead us to worship, filling our inner being with a fullness we may never have thought possible. Awe prepares the way for God’s transforming power within us. This transformation of our inner attitudes takes place as awe leads us into wonder, admiration, reverence, surrender and obedience before God.

—James Houston, *The Transforming Power of Prayer*

---

*“America stands on two great pillars — faith and morality. Without these, our foundation crumbles.”*

—George Washington

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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:

## July 5-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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

## July 12- Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalms 119:105-112

Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalms 65:(1-8), 9-13

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

## July 19- Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19

Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

## July 26- Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b

Psalms 128

1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## August 2- Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

## August 9- Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Psalms 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalms 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15

Matthew 14:22-33

## August 16- Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15

Psalms 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

## August 23- Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalms 124

Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8

Matthew 16:13-20

## August 30- Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21

Matthew 16:21-28

## September 6- Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalms 149

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

---

*“You are today where your thoughts  
have brought you; you will be tomorrow  
where your thoughts take you.”*

—James Lane Allen

The logo for July Birthdays & Anniversaries features four stars of varying shades of blue and white to the left of the word "JULY" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "Birthdays & Anniversaries" are written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

## **JULY** Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **Birthdays**

- 2 - Emma Wolfe
- 3 - Bonnie Reber
  - Jenna Reber
  - Wesson Hoppes
- 4 - Becky McBreen
- 5 - Evan Borger
  - Grant Borger
- 6 - Damien Wolfe
- 10 - Linda Clauser
  - Carla Lassandro
- 11 - Dean Ulsh
  - David A. Peiffer Sr.
  - Skyler Brown
  - Melissa Eckert
- 13 - Douglas Clauser
- 14 - Matthew Mengel
  - David Zimmerman
  - Gavin Guers
- 15 - Jacob Cotroneo
- 16 - Debbie Koch
  - Dustin Deibert
- 17 - Isaac Meck
- 18 - Pam Clauser
- 19 - Nancy Clauser
  - Robert H. Reed
  - Colby Ulsh
- 21 - Aaron Honyara
- 22 - Wade Sterner
  - Lilly Krause
- 24 - Sharon Shealer
  - Kristy Reber
  - Thomas Herring
- 25 - Lori Ulsh
  - Michele Keller
- 26 - Nancy Dewald

### **Anniversaries**

- 1 - Ronnie and Debbie Koch
- 3 - Linda and Dick Clauser
- 6 - John and Nancy Ulsh
- 9 - Franklin and Ann Reichert
  - Robert and Lauren Marra

- 15 - Jason and Brandi Kline
  - Gregory and Jessica Kehl
- 16 - David and Crystal Lehr
- 21 - Kathy and Ed Kline
- 22 - Donna and Ken Krammes
- 25 - Mike and Amy Rubinkam
- 27 - Kevin and Carolyn Richards
- 28 - George and Carol Sullivan
- 30 - Bradley and Katie Miller

### **July Baptismal Anniversaries**

- Abel Wilson, son of Jim and Laura Richardson
  - Mathias Joseph, son of Joseph and Tamara Nagle
- 

The logo for August Birthdays & Anniversaries features a stylized pink and white graphic of a flower or star to the left of the word "AUGUST" in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the words "Birthdays & Anniversaries" are written in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

## **AUGUST** Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **Birthdays**

- 1 - Debbie Langan
- 2 - William Reber
- 3 - Kaitlyn Reber
  - Titus Meck
- 5 - Pauline Smith
- 6 - Ava Perfetto
- 10 - Brian Blankenhorn
- 11 - Kiyah Clauser
- 12 - Jared Frantz
- 14 - Adalynn Warke
- 15 - Daniel Elo
- 19 - Wyatt Moyer
- 20 - Cathy Krause
  - Lauren Marra
- 21 - Verna Ebling
- 22 - Steven Brown
- 24 - Daniel Heim
  - Gina Lassandro
  - Jade Phillips
- 26 - Lorraine Phillips
  - Joseph Lassandro III
- 29 - Judy Frantz
- 30 - John R. Ulsh
  - Jacoby Edwards

## Anniversaries

- 2 - Karen and Robert Schultz
- 4 - Jennifer and Thomas Delong
  - Andrew and Elizabeth Good
- 5 - Joe and Lorna Palerino
- 13 - Don and Rae Ann Borger
- 16 - Nick and Janet Rodnick
- 19 - Joe and Cheryl Zimmerman
- 20 - Wayne and Cathy Krause
- 22 - Mark and Lori Moyer
- 25 - Christine and Clint Clauser
- 26 - Ronald and Esther Mengel
  - Mark and Nancy Dewald
- 27 - Wade and Diona Sterner
- 29 - Casey and Stephen Horvath
- 31 - Justin and Kelly Clauser

## August Baptismal Anniversaries

- Porsche Faith, daughter of Bruce Martin Jr. and Kendra Kline
- Kinsley Rose, daughter of Bruce Martin Jr. and Kendra Kline
- Lilly Ann Krause, daughter of Scott and Stephany Krause
- Skylar Elizabeth Krause, daughter of Scott and Stephany Krause
- Wyatt Andrew Krause, son of Scott and Stephany Krause

---

### Special Dates for July 2026

- Canada Day, *July 1, 2026*
- Independence Day, *July 4, 2026*

### Special Dates for August 2026

- Purple Heart Day, *August 7, 2026*

---

*“Freedom fails when people decide that it is their right to take and not to give.”*

—Stanley Maxwell

## Freedom Worth Guarding

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God’s provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God’s grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.

---

### Still Worth More Than You Know

A speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, “Who would like this?”

Nearly every hand went up.

“I’ll give it to one of you,” he said. “But first...” He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. “Who still wants it?”

Hands remained in the air.

He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. “How about now?”

The hands rose again.

“My friends,” he said, “you’ve just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20.” Life can feel the same way. We are dropped, crumpled and ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does not change.

In God’s eyes, you are never less than priceless. Clean or dirty, wrinkled or whole, you remain precious to Him. As Isaiah 43:4 says in the NIV, “You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.”

---

## The Sacred Pace of Rest

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, “You can’t hurry compost for the same reason you can’t hurry love and you can’t hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace.” In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed.

Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God.

In a culture that prizes speed and productivity, stepping away may feel counterintuitive. Yet it is in these still moments that our souls are restored and made fertile for growth. The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.

---

*“Creativity is so delicate a flower, that praise tends to make it bloom, while discouragement often nips it in the bud. Any of us will [have] more and better ideas if our efforts are truly appreciated.”*

—Alexander Osborn

## They Walked Everywhere

When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, “I’ll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we’ll talk.”

A month later, the young man came back. “Son, I’m proud of you,” his father said. “Your grades are up, and you’ve been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn’t get your hair cut.”

The teenager paused. “Well, Dad, I’ve been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair.”

His father nodded. “That’s true. And they walked everywhere they went.”

---

## Bible Quiz

Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give light in the house. Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."

Choose the ending of Jesus’ sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.

Answer: C (Matthew 5:16, NIV)

---

## In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? Praise God.

Is life becoming difficult? Seek God.

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? Worship God.

Are you suffering great pain? Trust God.

Are you unsure what to do? Ask God.

Are you overwhelmed with joy? Thank God.

# STEWARDSHIP: Grace in Motion— Even When We Are on the Move

July is a season of movement. Many of us are packing bags, heading out on long-awaited family vacations, enjoying the warmth of the sun, and seeking a well-deserved change of pace. These moments of rest and adventure are beautiful gifts from God, allowing us to recharge and marvel at the beauty of creation.

But did you know that even when our pews are a bit quieter, the vital work of St. Paul's Summer Hill never takes a vacation?

## Keeping the Connection Alive

Throughout these warm summer weeks, the love of Christ is constantly in motion here on the hill. Our outreach ministries continue to feed families through the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry and support local neighbors in need. Our staff is preparing for upcoming educational programs, and our historic building is kept open, cool, and welcoming for community groups, scouts, and weekly worship.

As a congregation, we are so incredibly blessed by your consistent faithfulness. Your giving has kept us strong. However, summer presents a unique challenge for our church finances. When we travel, we often get out of our normal Sunday rhythms and simply forget to make up the offerings for the weeks we missed. Currently, we need just a small, collective effort from everyone to help us meet our annual budget goals. If every family makes a mindful effort to keep their giving consistent through these sunny months, we will enter the autumn in a position of strength and joy.

## Simple Ways to Give This Summer

No matter where your summer travels take you—whether you are sitting on a beach, hiking in the mountains, or relaxing in your backyard—you can easily ensure your offering makes it back to "the shining light on the hill."

Here are the many convenient ways you can share your gifts:

1. **The Offering Plate & Offering Box:** Place your envelope in the plate as it is passed during Sunday worship, or drop it in our secure offering box in the sanctuary.
2. **Mail a Check:** You can mail your check directly to the church office:  
*St. Paul's UCC, 1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922*
3. **Your Bank's Bill Pay:** Set up "St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC" as a recurring recipient through your online banking app (free and easy!).
4. **Give Online via Tithe.ly:** Set up a secure one-time or recurring gift online at:  
**TINYURL.COM/GIVETOSUMMERHILL** (or scan the QR code in our bulletin).

Thank you for your warm heart and your faithful hands. Your generosity ensures that St. Paul's remains a beacon of hope and grace in our community, all summer long.

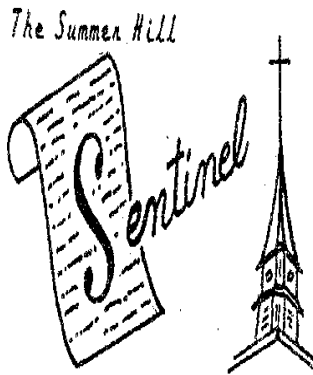
May God bless your travels, protect your families, and bring you back to us refreshed and inspired!

**With Thankful Blessings,**

*The St. Paul's Consistory & Stewardship Team*

**July & August 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](http://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

**July & August 2026**