

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, July 12, 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

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. Paul’s (Summer Hill), Auburn** from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar.

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.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, whether weary or rejoicing.

People: All are welcome here.

Pastor: Come, whether at peace or in the midst of a struggle.

People: All are welcome here.

Pastor: Come, whether growing or wilting.

People: All are welcome here. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 67.....“Come, We That Love the Lord”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Holy God, we want to be your perfect children. But like Jacob and Esau before us, we are far from perfect. Forgive our imperfection. Give us the courage to grow as disciples in your word, even when it seems hard. And when the thorns and weeds begin choking us, resuscitate us with your grace, revive us with your love, and reclaim us as your children, imperfect though we may be. In grateful hope, we pray. 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: Be assured that it’s never too late!

People: The God of Love, and Christ the storyteller, remind us to listen, understand, and act.

Pastor: Prepare your hearts as garden beds for God’s seeds of joy and hope. Receive God’s grace today and every day. We are forgiven! 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 Rubinkam

Old Testament: Genesis 25:19-34 (Page 20)
Psalm: Psalm 119:105-112 (Read responsively)

Lector: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
People: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.
Lector: I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.
People: Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.
Lector: I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
People: The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.
Lector: Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
People: I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Epistle: Romans 8:1-11 (Page 982)
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (Page 846)

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.”

SERMON.....“The Struggle is Real”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 504.....“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

CELEBRATION OF JULY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

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

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Apostles Creed in the form of a Litany

Pastor: Do you believe in God?
People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

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 children of God's promises,

People: we will bring God's promised love the world.

Pastor: As recipients of Christ's peace,

People: we will bring Christ's peace to the world.

Pastor: Blessed by the Holy Spirit,

People: we will bless everyone we meet.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 66....."To God Be the Glory"

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 J. Scifres from the 2026 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in memory of Fern Krause and Edna & Eugene Koch by Ron and Debbie Koch.

-Offering on Sunday, July 5, 2026: \$3,964.00
-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2026: \$3,368.52

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

-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following the service TODAY.

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

-**Next Sunday, July 19 is “Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday.** A group ride will follow the service. 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** 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 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!

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, **John Borchick, Ron Koch**, Wesson Hoppes, Joe Palerino, Chris Branca, Jill Norsworthy, Dick Clauser, Eileen Witmeir, Brian Moyer, Earl Phillips

CANCER PATIENTS: Rev. Gene Aulenbach, Al Basci, 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, JULY 12

Sunday, July 12

-Fellowship Hour following worship

Monday, July 13

8:30 AM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

10:00 AM -Pastor Ken conducts Chapel Service at Luther Ridge

Friday, July 17

12:00 PM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

Saturday, July 18

5:00 PM -Group trip to Reading Phillies

Sunday, July 19 -"Ride your motorcycle to Church Sunday"

9:30 AM -Worship

-Group motorcycle ride following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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

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!

