

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, July 5, 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

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Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries.**

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.

(Communion note: This morning, as some of us are gathered together here at church while many are gathering with us virtually from their homes, we all are invited to the same table. Those present this morning are invited to pick up a bag of individually prepared elements from the table in the narthex, as we will not be distributing the elements during the service. Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Christ calls those who are weary and heavy laden.

People: In Christ, we find rest.

Pastor: Christ calls us to bear his yoke and learn from him.

People: In Christ, we see God’s ways.

Pastor: Christ is gentle and humble in heart.

People: In Christ, we know God’s love.

Pastor: Come, for Christ calls us here. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 727.....“America, the Beautiful”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of us all, we incline our ears to you now, listening, again, for the sound of your voice. We do not always remember to listen, O God. We do not always remember to hear when you speak into our hearts. We do not always remember to look deeper than the surface. We do not always seek your guidance or follow it. But we remember now, and we long to listen now—to hear and to see, to seek and to follow. Turn us away from all that is just noise and back to the sound of your soul. To your heart beating for us always. 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: Christ rescues us from our foolish ways and from our misguided deeds.

People: In Christ, we are made perfect, even in our imperfection.

Pastor: Rejoice, by God’s Grace, we are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God. 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, Brook Koch-Guers

Old Testament: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 (Page 19)

Psalm: Psalm 45:10-17 **(Read Responsively)**

Lector: Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father’s house, and the king will desire your beauty.

People: Since he is your lord, bow to him; the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people with all kinds of wealth.

Lector: The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes; in many-colored robes she is led to the king; behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.

People: With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king.

Lector: In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons; you will make them princes in all the earth.

People: I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations; therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.

Epistle: Romans 7:15-25a (Page 982)

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (Page 844)

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.....“Steadfast Love”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 473.....“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation:

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

People: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

Pastor: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Communion Prayer:

The Seraphic Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory, Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

The congregation may be seated.

Words of Institution:

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

All: Christ's death, O God, we proclaim. Christ's resurrection we declare. Christ's coming we await. Glory be to you, O God.

Prayer of Consecration:

Pastor: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ's resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine, upon our gifts, and upon us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

Pastor: We ask these things in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray saying....

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.

Breaking of the Bread:

Lifting of the Cup:

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a sign of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Go forth with the confidence of Rebekah,

People: who left everything behind to follow God.

Pastor: Go forth with the delight of Paul,

People: who felt freedom to follow Christ.

Pastor: Go forth with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

People: who dances with praise throughout creation.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 730.....“Mine Eyes Have Seen 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 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 and bulletins are in memory of Brian Reber by Mrs. Dorie Reber.

-Offering on Sunday, June 28, 2026: \$2,780.00

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

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

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend **the Board of Christian Education Meeting this 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 next 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 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, **Wesson Hoppes**, Joe Palerino, Chris Branca, Lori Krug, Jill Norsworthy, Dick Clauser, Eileen Witmeir, Brian Moyer, Earl Phillips, Pat Evans

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, JULY 5

Monday, July 6

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, July 7

7:00 PM -Board of Christian Education Meeting

Sunday, July 12

9:30 AM -Worship with the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries

-Fellowship Hour following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Genesis 25:19-34

Psalm 119:105-112

Isaiah 55:10-13

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

Romans 8:1-11

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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!

