

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, August 2, 2026



Matthew 14, 13-21

1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783
Church Office Phone: 570-754-7225
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**Tenth 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 **St. Peter's, Pine Grove** 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.

(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: Are you hungry for a word of hope?
People: We come to be fed and nourished.
Pastor: Are you yearning to see the bounty of God?
People: We long to see and believe.
Pastor: Are you ready to witness the power of our God?
People: We are ready.
Pastor: Come! Let us worship. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 501.....“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of wonder and mystery, you struggle with us when our faith is weakest, yet you do not overcome us; you meet us in our weakness, yet you do not humble us with your strength. In dark nights of the soul, and when the needs of others seem too great, you always stand us back on our feet. When we face overwhelming odds and yearn to find an easy way out, you open new vistas of faithful living. Stay with us when we have need of you, O God, forgive us, and bless us in our struggles, that we might be a blessing for others in need. 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.

The congregation may be seated.

ENGAGING THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD:.....Lector, Mike Fessler

Old Testament: Genesis 32:22-31 (Page 28)
Psalm: Psalm 17:1-7, 15 (Read Responsively)

Lector: Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

People: From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

Lector: If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

People: As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

Lector: My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

People: I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.

Lector: Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

People: As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 9:1-5 (Page 984)
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:13-21 (Page 848)

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.....“Faith Doubters”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 665.....“Break Now the Bread of Life”

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: As Jesus welcomed the thousands to share in a feast created from a few loaves and some fish, Christ welcomes us now to this abundant feast of holy communion, where we are fed with God's grace and love.

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 Communion Prayer:

Pastor: 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 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: Holy are you, and blessed is your beloved child, Christ Jesus.....And so, in remembrance of these, your miraculous acts in Christ Jesus, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration:

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):
We thank you God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ’s gifts. Strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION
Pastor: Go with the One who brings us through the wilderness into a land flowing with milk and honey.
People: We go with the blessings of God, who greets us face to face.
Pastor: Go with the One who heals our wounds and makes us whole.
People: We go with the blessings of God, who bathes us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

BENEDICTION
THE THREEFOLD AMEN.....*Amen. Amen. Amen.*
CLOSING HYMN NO. 500.....“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
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 the 2023 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by B. J. Beu.

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- The bulletins are in honor of Joe and Lorna Palerino’s 59th Wedding Anniversary this Wednesday, Aug. 5 by the family.
- Offering on Sunday, July 26, 2026: \$2,518.00
- Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2026: \$3,368.52
- The August Communion Offering is designated to the Alzheimer’s Association.**

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

-The third Sunday of the month is “Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday. A group ride will follow the service. The upcoming dates are **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 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, August 17** beginning at 8:30am and **Friday, August 21** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

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

-Our last outdoor worship service for the summer will be held on **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 will collect a special 5th Sunday offering on Sunday, August 30 which is designated to the Pastor’s Emergency Relief Fund.

-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.** Forms are available on the bulletin table or in the July/August Newsletter. **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.

-There will be a New Member Reception on Rally Day, Sunday, September 13 during our 10:30am Worship Service. Please speak to Pastor Ken if you would like more information on joining the church.

-Mark Your Calendars for Sunday School Rally Day on Sunday, September 13! All are invited and encouraged to attend and 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 and a New Member Reception. 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!

-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, ***family and friends of Paul Aumon Sr.,*** Ronnie Mengel, Dick Clauser, Brenda, John Borchick, Ron Koch, Brian Moyer, Earl Phillips

CANCER PATIENTS: Rev. Gene Aulenbach, Al Basci, James Connelly, Bill Dobrolsky, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Kristen Gately, 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, Meir Mazuz, Nicole McFarland-Bish, Tara Moss, Judy Ohl, Dana Osborne, Nick Reading, Pat Reading, Amy Reed, Noah Richardson, Jen Semenco, Jim Thompson, Tim Wapinsky, Brian Wood

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

Sunday, August 2

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

Sunday, August 9

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

-Fellowship time following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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

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!

