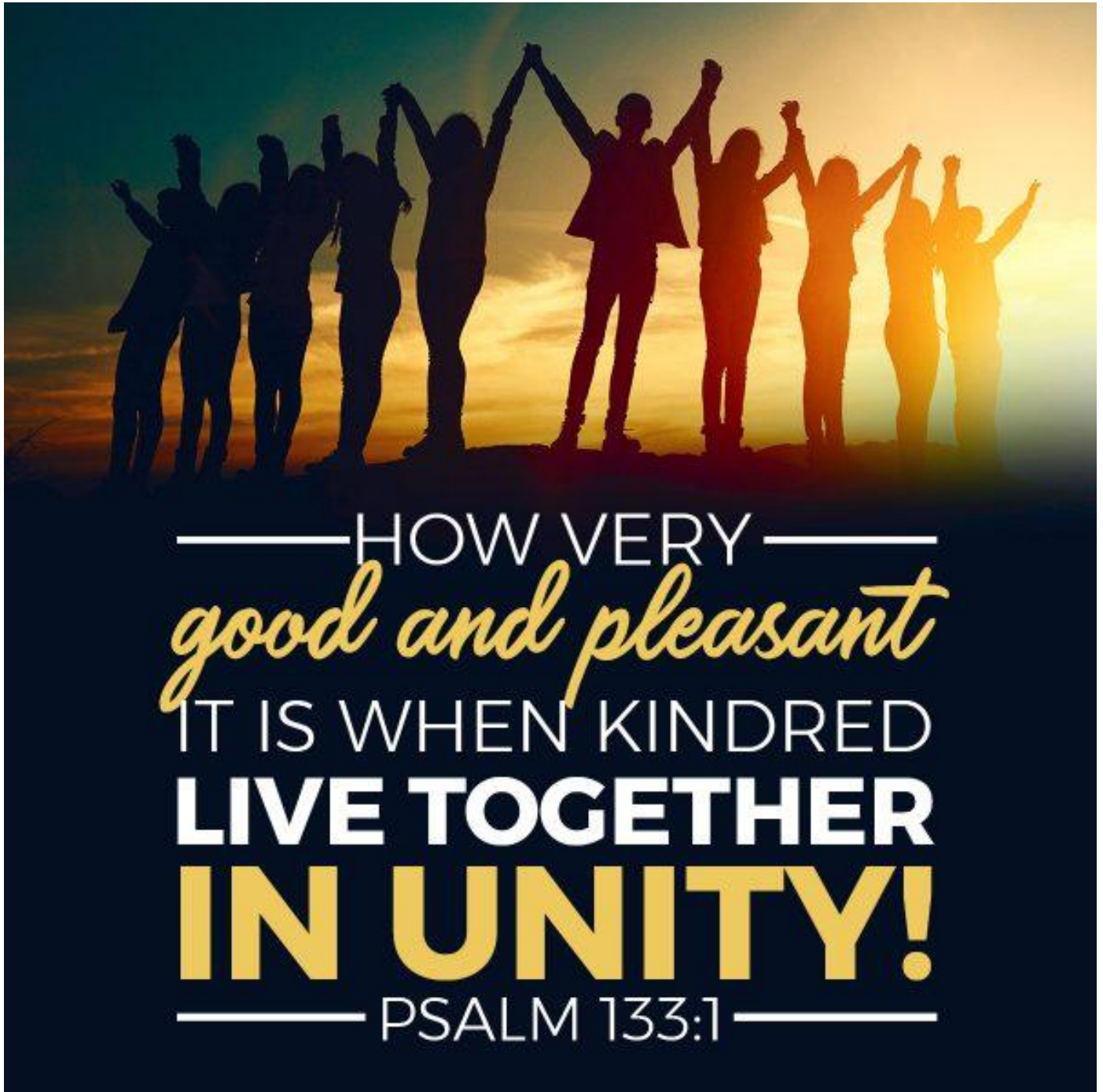


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, August 16, 2026



—HOW VERY—
good and pleasant
IT IS WHEN KINDRED
LIVE TOGETHER
IN UNITY!
—PSALM 133:1—

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

1782
Sunday, August 16, 2026

244 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2026
9:30am

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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, **Members in Discernment.**

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: When hatred and division separate us,

People: God's love binds us together.

Pastor: When quarrels estrange us,

People: Christ's grace brings reconciliation.

Pastor: When we feel excluded and left out,

People: The Spirit's peace eases our pain.

Pastor: Come! Let us worship the One who makes us one. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 106....."All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Merciful God, free us from the desire for retribution towards those who have wronged us. And fill us with mercy and compassion for those who trigger deep-seated prejudices against those who offend us. Forgive us when we forget that we are all your children, and everything is your creation. For we long to know the joy of living in peace, and the hope of living in harmony, with those we would rather live without. 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: Do not be distressed or angry with yourselves, for the God who reconciled Joseph and his brothers, can surely reconcile us.

People: God's mercy extends to everyone!

Pastor: Receive the love of God, and then reach out to others with that same compassion. 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, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Genesis 45:1-15 (Page 40)

Psalm: Psalm 133 (Read responsively)

Lector: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

People: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

Lector: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Epistle: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (Page 985)

Gospel: Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28 (Page 849)

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.....“Good and Pleasant”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 419.....“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison).....Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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: The God of dreams has brought us together.

People: The God of dreams sends us forth as one.

Pastor: The God of love has knit us together in unity.

People: The God of love heals our divisions.

Pastor: The God of hope sends us forth together.

People: The God of peace brings peace to our world.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 603.....“In Christ There Is No East or West”

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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-Offering on Sunday, August 9, 2026: \$2,391.75
-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2026: \$3,368.52

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

-A group motorcycle ride will follow our worship 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, August 17** beginning at 8:30am and **this Friday, August 21** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

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

-Senior Choir rehearsals will begin this Wednesday, August 19 and continue each week at 7:00pm. New members are always welcome! Please speak to Rae Ann Borger for more information.

-Our last outdoor worship service for the summer will be held next 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.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room beginning on **Tuesday, September 8**. If you are interested in knitting and/or crocheting, we can hook you up! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

-Board of Christian Education Meeting: The next Board of Christian Education meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. During this meeting, a vote will be taken on proposed amendments to the Board of Christian Education Constitution and Bylaws to align board terms with the Sunday School year. This change is intended to provide greater continuity in planning, leadership, and support for our Christian Education ministries throughout the school year. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend. If you have any questions or would like to review the proposed amendments before the meeting, please contact Laura Carll at (484) 269-4405.

-Everyone is invited to the Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 12 at 5pm for a worship service, annual picnic and musical entertainment by singer/guitarist, Dave Hartranft. Eating will be indoors, and music will be outside the church pavilion. Bring a chair and bring a friend! You're also welcome to bring a favorite food dish, but it is not expected.

-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!

-There will be a Blood Drive sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches on Thursday, September 17 from 1-6pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Haven, to schedule an appointment.

-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 Brian Stump***, Dick Clauser, Silas Meck, Ronnie Mengel, Brenda, John Borchick, Ron Koch, Brian Moyer, Earl Phillips

CANCER PATIENTS: Rev. Gene Aulenbach, Al Basci, James Connelly, Bill Dobrotsky, 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 16

Sunday, August 16 – “Ride your motorcycle to church Sunday”

-Group motorcycle ride following worship

Monday, August 17

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

Tuesday, August 18

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, August 19

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, August 21

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

Sunday, August 23

9:30 AM -Outdoor Worship

5:00 PM -Boy Scout Court of Honor and covered dish

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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

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!



RALLY DAY 2026

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Everyone is invited to join us for a new
year of faith, learning, and fellowship!
There is something for everyone.



Sunday School
Children & Adults)
9:15am *(Resumes This Day!)*



Worship
With Teacher &
Confirmand Blessing



**Confirmation
Classes**
Begin at 9:15am –
For confirmands,
parents, mentors



**Church
Picnic Grove**
After Worship)
For Food,
Fellowship,
and Fun!



Outdoor Games



**Hamburgers,
Hot Dogs,
Snacks
provided!**

Also

**Bring a shared dish,
lawn chair, blanket,
or outdoor games
if you wish!**

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

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17972