

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, August 9, 2026



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday

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Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

**Eleventh 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, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **St. Peter's, Tremont and Interim Pastors.**

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: O give thanks to the Lord!

People: Holy One, we come with thanks on our lips.

Pastor: Sing to God, sing praises!

People: Rise up your song in our souls.

Pastor: Tell of God's wonderful works!

People: Our hearts find joy in seeking you.

Pastor: Seek the Lord and claim God's strength!

People: We grow strong in your power and might.

Pastor: Remember all that God has done!

People: You shape our lives through every challenge.

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

People: We praise you, Lord! Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 411....."How Firm a Foundation"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of infinite possibilities, we are like a boat that is beaten by the storm: without your aid we are powerless to get where we are going; we are like disciples who sit in fear for their lives: without your presence we are trapped within the prison of our feelings of hopelessness and despair. Forgive our doubt and disbelief. Grant us the courage of Peter to believe that through your power anything is possible. 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: The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’
People: Christ’s love is greater than our deepest failings.
Pastor: Everyone who risks the uncertain walk of faith receives aid from the one who calms the waters.
People: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
Pastor: So rejoice, for you are the forgiven children of 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, Jeff Palerino

Old Testament: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (Page 32)

Psalm: Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b (**Read responsively**)

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

People: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Lector: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

People: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Lector: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

People: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Lector: When he summoned famine against the land, and broke every staff of bread.

People: he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

Lector: His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck was put in a collar of iron;

People: until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord kept testing him.

Lector: The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free.

People: He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions,

Lector: to instruct his officials at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom.

People: Praise the Lord!

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13 (Page 512)

Epistle Lesson: Romans 10:5-15 (Page 985)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:22-33 (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.....“When the Going Gets Rough”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 559.....“Here I Am, Lord”

CELEBRATION OF 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

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: God blesses us with strength for the journey.

People: Our hearts sing God's praises.

Pastor: Christ lifts us up from the raging waters of life.

People: Our spirits rejoice in our salvation.

Pastor: The Spirit guides us with dreams full of hope and promise.

People: Our lives rest secure in the One who is faithful.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 345.....“Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”

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 2023 Abingdon Worship Annuals.

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-The bulletins are in loving memory of Mary Norsworthy by her girls - Lisa, Jill, and Jackie.

-Offering on Sunday, August 2, 2026: \$1,982.00

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

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

-There will be a Fellowship Hour following worship TODAY. Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments in the rear of the sanctuary.

-Next Sunday 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 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.

-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.

-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, ***Dick Clauser, family and friends of Alex Womer, Silas Meck***, Ronnie Mengel, 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 9

Sunday, August 9

-Fellowship time following worship

Monday, August 10

10:30 AM -Pastor Ken conducts chapel service at Luther Ridge

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

9:30 AM -Worship

-Group motorcycle ride following worship

***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!

