



St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC

September 2026 Newsletter

Pastor's Page

Greetings Summer Hill!

As the late summer sun begins to yield to the crisp air of September, we naturally find ourselves shifting gears. Gardens are harvested, backpacks are packed, and families settle back into familiar routines after weeks of summer travels and relaxed schedules. Here on Summer Hill, September has always been a season of vibrant renewal—a time when our church family gathers back together with renewed energy, clear purpose, and joyful anticipation for what lies ahead.

As I look back over our years together and look forward to this coming fall, I am filled with deep gratitude. God has abundantly blessed St. Paul's with such dedicated and faithful families, bright and energetic children, and selfless volunteers who give so generously of their time and hearts to keep our many ministries thriving. Every lesson taught, every song sung, every meal prepared, and every quiet act of kindness helps sustain our vibrant life together as a community of faith.

In his letter to the early church in Corinth, St. Paul wrote about how each person plays a vital role in the life of the congregation:

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:27, 7, NRSV)

Paul's message is a wonderful reminder for us today: the church is not just a building or an institution, but a living, breathing body where every single person matters. God has equipped each of us with unique Spiritual Gifts, talents, and resources—whether it is a gift for teaching, hospitality, encouragement, administration, music, or prayer. When we bring those gifts together, the Body of Christ on Summer Hill grows stronger, healthier, and more equipped to share Christ's love with our neighbors.

This September presents a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reflect on how we can use our Spiritual Gifts to continue building up the church community.

Whether you have been serving in a ministry for decades or are looking for a new way to get involved this year, your presence and your gifts are needed and valued.

We have many exciting ways to reconnect and kick off our fall season together!

- **Fall Worship Schedule (Beginning Sunday, September 6):** We will return to our fall worship schedule, meeting in the sanctuary at 10:30 AM (moving back from our 9:30 AM summer worship time).
- **Rally Day (Sunday, September 13):** Mark your calendars for a full morning of celebration!
 - **9:30 AM:** Sunday School begins for all ages! We will also have a special gathering for all confirmands and their parents as we launch our Confirmation year. We are excited to welcome our new first-year confirmands as well as our four returning second-year confirmands!
 - **10:30 AM:** During worship, we will officially welcome new members into our congregation, offer a blessing of the Confirmands, and pray a special blessing over our Sunday School workers and students.
 - **After Worship:** Join us at our beautiful picnic grove for our Churchwide Rally Day Picnic! The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. Everyone is welcome to bring a covered dish to share if you are able, but please don't feel obligated—just bring yourself! We will enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship and fun lawn games for the kids.

As we transition into this new season, I invite you to step into the fall with enthusiasm and joy. Recommit to gathering with your church family, discover how your unique gifts can make a difference, and join us as we continue to build up the Body of Christ together. I think it is going to be a fantastic year!

Spiritual Gift Blessings, Pastor Ken

Communion Offering

The September Communion Offering is designated to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gift collection.

The October Communion Offering is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry.

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 also have ushers accept offerings during the Hymn of Reflection after the sermon 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!



Senior Choir

The Senior Choir rehearsals have begun and will continue each Wednesday evening beginning at 7pm. New members are always welcome! Please speak to our Music Director, Rae Ann Borger if you would like more information.

It's criminal to take anything in life for granted.

—Anna Quindlen

Regular 10:30am Worship Time Resumes

Worship Services will resume at 10:30am on **Sunday, September 6**. There will be no Sunday School on September 6. Sunday School will resume at 9:15am on Rally Day, **September 13**.

Prayer Shawl Committee

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room beginning on **Tues., 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.

You Are Invited!

Everyone is invited to St. Paul's 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.

Sunday School Rally Day

Everyone is invited to join us for Rally Day on **Sunday, September 13!** 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!

Schuylkill Haven Area Food Pantry

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, September 14** beginning at 8:30am and **Friday, September 18** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

Consistory Meeting

The Consistory will meet on **Tues., September 15** at 7:00pm in the conference room.

Council of Churches Community Blood Drive

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.

Motorcycle Sunday

Sunday, September 20 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, please notify the church office to be added to the "Biker" email list!

Bethany Offering

On **Sunday, September 20**, we will collect a special offering to support the ministries of Bethany Children's Home. Offering envelopes will be available on the table by the bulletins.

Neighbors in Need Offering

Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday, and on that day, we will receive the annual Neighbors in Need Offering, the 3rd of 4 special offerings taken for the national church. The offering enables ministries of justice and compassion. Offering envelopes will be available on the table by the bulletins.

Youth Acolytes Needed

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.

Sunday School News

We are so excited to kick off another Sunday School year on September 13th! We will have classes for all ages from nursery to adult. Join us and invite your friends!

Our next Board of Christian Education meeting will be on September 8th at 7pm. Anyone interested in helping us kick off the new year is welcome to join us.

Details for our Fall Summer Hill Youth Group event will be released soon. All kids from kindergarten to 12th grade are welcome!

Blessings,
The Board of Christian Education



Your Consistory met on August 18, 2026 and discussed the following items:

Mentioned some preparations were needed in the picnic grove for our Rally Day picnic following worship on September 13.

Noted the approval from Seminary for Laura Carll to conduct her Student Pastoring requirement for the Fall 2026/Spring 2027 semesters at our church

Discussed at length some updates with the Servant Keeper database. We have officially uploaded data for all of our active members, with Pastor Ken and Kelly receiving some additional training on the overall features and usage.

The Spiritual Council Meeting will be on September 21 at 7pm

September Communion offering will support Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

October Communion offering will support Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

The next Consistory Mtg. will be held on September 15, 2026.

Respectfully yours,
Trevor Smith, Secretary

Thank You!!

-to Joe and Lorna Palerino for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for September 2026

-to those members directing Thrivent Choice Dollars® in the amount of \$241.00

-to Rich Clauser for mowing and weed whacking the church lawn in July

-to Mike Fessler for mowing and weed whacking the church lawn in August

-to our "weeding elves" for working to make our flower beds look beautiful! We are so grateful for you!

-Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for the generous and kind graduation card and Amazon gift card! I really appreciated it and enjoyed the graduate ceremony. Thank you again for all the support!

Love, Kate Rubinkam

-To everyone,

Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches and Vicinity would like to thank you for your generous gift to our Food Pantry. It will help us fill our shelves with items and for the Backpack Weekender Program. Your generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated by the Council.

Sincerely yours,

Peggy Lutz, VP
Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches

The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

September 6- Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14

Psalm 149

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

September 13- Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20- Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27- Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 4-Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46



Free Music Festival Weekend

2026

Friday, Sept 18 to

Sunday, Sept 20

Rock Recovery

Friday—Sept 18

Starting at 4:30 PM

Food Trucks, Cornhole, Just Chilling

5:30 PM—Show Starts

Scarlet Meridian and Torment Ridden

Music, Testimonies

6:45 PM Recovery Church

7:30 Music & Wrap

Guest Jeff Brickley, Rap & Hip-Hop

OROC Free Music Festival—Saturday, September 19

10 AM Motorsports Show—go to website for registration information

Music by Rock of Ages

11 AM to 6 PM—Music and Speakers Main Stage: Mercy Run, Emily High, Stars Burn Down, Wander No More and

Bodie from NBC's 'The Voice'

11 AM to 4 PM—Kids Area: Crafts, Petting Zoo, Games, Face Painting, Barrel Train and Bounce Houses. Music: Roth Family Band and DJ Clyde. Wrist band and waiver required.

Food available from on site food trucks & Stop N Rock Ice Cream.

Location: 1008 Rock Rd, Pine Grove, PA 17963

Use QR code or go to www.onerockonecommunity.org for the Program



If you would like to volunteer please go to our website and click "volunteer" in the upper right corner to get more information.

Children's Area Helpers require background checks.

Rock Revival of Hope & Faith

Sunday, September 20

3:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Community Potluck (Bring a Dish if you Wish) and Select Free Food Truck Favs

Speaking: Vince Papale (Eagles Legend)

and author Bruce Charsky

Children's Area Open

Live Music & Prayer

I have learned that plotting revenge only allows the people who hurt you to hurt you longer.

—Anonymous

When a man is wrapped up in himself, he makes a very small package.

—John Ruskin

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 (Resume 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

September Birthdays

- 1 - Guy J. Fidler
- 2 - Kelly Eckert
 - Connor Rodnick
- 3 - Jeanette Knittle
- 4 - Bradley Krause
 - Augustus Warke
- 5 - Marion Bartolet
- 6 - Bradley Jones
- 7 - Deb Heffner
 - Bonnie Edwards
 - Nathan Elo
 - Caden Moyer
 - Joel Deibert
- 9 - Brandi Kline
 - Cole Frantz
 - Morgan Zimmerman
- 10 - Joe Zimmerman
 - Alexandra Warke
 - Scott Krause
- 11 - Diona Sterner
- 12 - Garrett Guers
- 13 - Chase Guers
 - Cynthia Borchick
- 14 - Sarah Palerino
- 15 - Thomas Toomey
- 17 - Mary Jane Toomey
 - Lane Malis
- 18 - Brook Koch-Guers
 - Kayla Jones
- 20 - Kelly Ulsh
 - Owen Borger
- 21 - Joe Palerino
 - Wayne Krause
- 22 - Michael Reber
- 23 - Christopher Clauser
- 24 - Madison Krause
- 25 - Robert Clauser
- 26 - Samantha Shawver
- 28 - Jahnae Eckert
 - Chaseton Eckert
 - Avery Richards
- 30 - Timothy Barnes III

September Anniversaries

- 2 - Zachary and Sarah Malis
- 4 - Kermit and Ann Fix

- 6 - Frank and Linda Honyara
 - Ray and Donna Koch
 - Chad and Michelle Edwards
 - Tyler and Ava Perfetto
- 7 - John and Mae Halabura
- 9 - Rob and Dana Clauser
 - Brian and Ann Blankenhorn
- 10 - Greg and Donna Brensinger
 - Timothy and Erika Barnes
 - John and Cynthia Borchick
- 11 - Michael and Sarah Wolfe
- 16 - Corey and Jamie Nabholz
- 17 - Neal and Jill Edwards
 - Adam and Morgan Zimmerman
- 19 - Jack and Kassandra Hower

Special Dates for September 2026

- Labor Day, *September 7, 2026*
 - Patriot Day, *September 11, 2026*
 - National Grandparents Day, *September 13, 2026*
 - Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15-October 15, 2026*
 - First Day of Autumn, *September 22, 2026*
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Christian Symbol



BREAD — One of the oldest and most familiar foods, bread carries deep meaning throughout Scripture. In the Old Testament, God provided manna, or “bread from heaven,” to sustain His people in the wilderness. In the New Testament, Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35), pointing to himself as the true source of spiritual nourishment. Bread also holds a central place in the Lord’s Supper, where it represents Christ’s body, given for us. Simple and sustaining, bread has become a lasting symbol of God’s provision, Christ’s presence, and the shared fellowship of believers.

Bible Quiz

After his resurrection, Jesus asked one of his disciples the same question three times: “Do you love me?” The disciple felt hurt, wondering why Jesus kept asking. Who was this disciple?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Philip
- D. (Simon) Peter

Answer: D (John 21:17)

When the Road Gets Rough

It had been a long trip home, and the weary traveler still had miles to go. So when a sign appeared reading, “Rough Road Ahead — 4 miles,” he braced himself.

Rough was an understatement. The lanes narrowed, the shoulder disappeared, and traffic slowed to a crawl. Drivers carefully weaved around potholes and construction equipment, inching forward one stretch at a time. But just as the sign promised, after four difficult miles, the road opened up and smoothed out again.

Jesus offers a similar kind of clarity about life. In John 16:33 (NIV), He says, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Notice He doesn’t say we might face trouble. It is part of the journey. There will be stretches that feel slow, uncertain and hard.

Notice that Jesus didn’t say we “might” have trouble. Sooner or later, problems will come. The road will get rough. But Jesus has already defeated everything the world can throw our way. We just have to keep moving, fueled by hope.

The promise is just as certain as the warning sign. The rough road does not last forever, and it does not have the final say. Christ has already gone before us, and smoother ground is ahead.

Rest for the Soul



Studies show many Americans don’t get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it’s a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God’s voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.

A Prayer for Joy and Laughter

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

—Anonymous

The Gifts of Our Stewardship

As the golden light of September begins to illuminate our days and the rhythm of the school year returns, our church too prepares to welcome each of you back with the joyful celebration of Rally Day Sunday on September 13th. This annual tradition marks not just a return to familiar routines, but a renewal of our shared commitment to the life and ministry of our faith community. It is a season to reflect on what it means to be faithful stewards—of our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Stewardship is more than just a word—it's a way of living our faith. It's the act of gratefully managing and sharing the blessings we have received. It encompasses all aspects of our lives, from our time and talents to our financial resources. As members of this church family, we promised to support our shared mission and ministry. Re-engaging with those promises is a powerful way to begin this new season.

Time, Talents, and Treasures

Just as we encourage students to return to the classroom with renewed focus, we encourage you to return to worship with renewed purpose. Attending weekly worship services is a fundamental part of our commitment. It's a way we offer our **time** back to God in gratitude and community. As Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us, “²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Your presence matters.

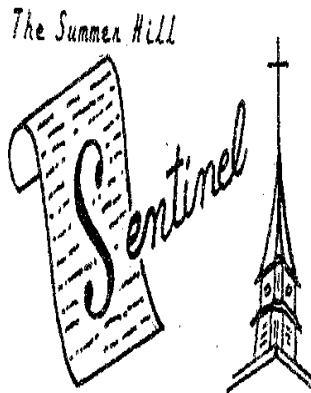
Beyond our time, our **talents** are also a vital part of our stewardship. The ministries of our church—from teaching Sunday school to serving on a committee, singing in the choir to helping with outreach—are all made possible by your unique gifts. First Peter 4:10 encourages us, “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” What gift can you share this fall?

Finally, our **financial gifts**, or treasures, are essential for sustaining our church's work. Your offerings are what keep our lights on, support our staff, fund our ministries, and enable us to be a beacon of hope for our neighbors near and far. Giving is an act of trust and thanksgiving. In Malachi 3:10, God invites us to “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” This promise reminds us that our generosity allows God to work through our church to bless others.

This September, as we kick off the new church year together, let's renew our commitment to God and our church community. Let's actively participate in worship, prayerfully consider how we can share our talents, and joyfully support our church financially. Your stewardship, in all its forms, is a blessing to our entire community.

September 2026

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
1235 Summer Hill Road
Auburn, PA 17922**



**Church Phone: 570-754-7225
Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor: 610-207-4783
Office Hours: Monday– Thursday 9am - 2pm
Email: summerhillucc@gmail.com
Website: www.summerhillucc.com**

Address Service Requested

Consistory Elders: Robin Ferguson, Jeff Palerino and Mike Reber
Consistory Trustees: Clint Clauser, Kelly Palerino and Trevor Smith
Stewardship/Mission- Deacons of Consistory:
Lori Moyer, Tom and Terri Saunders, Kathy Kline, Mike Rubinkam and Pam Clauser
Board of Christian Education Chairperson & Summer Hill Youth Group: Laura Carll
Board of Christian Education Vice-Chairperson: Vicky Borger
Board of Christian Education Secretary:
Amy Zimmerman
Sunday Morning Coordinator: Trevor Smith
Assistant Sunday Coordinator: David Deibert
Budget Committee: Pam Clauser
Personnel Committee: Lori Moyer
Prayer Shawl Ministry Chair: Nancy Dewald
Altar Committee Chairperson: Kelly Palerino

September 2026

Visit the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ- <https://keystoneucc.org/>

Visit the United Church of Christ – www.ucc.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell

Church Administrator: Kelly Palerino

Cleaning Person: Stacy Fidler

Director of Youth Ministries: Laura Carll

Music Director/ Pianist: Rae Ann Borger

Organists: Colin Andrew/ Jacob Challenger
(Supply)

Church Leadership

Consistory President: Pam Clauser

Consistory Vice President: Jeff Palerino

Consistory Secretary: Trevor Smith

Consistory Assistant Secretary: Terri Saunders

Treasurer: Lori Moyer

Financial Secretary: Kathy Kline