

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, September 20, 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

1782
Sunday, September 20, 2026

244 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2026
10:30am

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Harvest Home and the Bethany special offering

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Trinity, Tamaqua** 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.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The fields are ripe, the tables are set, and the Lord of the Harvest calls us together.

People: We come to celebrate God's faithful provision from the earth and in our lives!

Pastor: Whether we have labored in the field since dawn or arrived at the eleventh hour, God's grace is poured out on all.

People: Thank you, God, for your extravagant generosity and abundant care!

Pastor: The seasons turn, the harvest is gathered, and God's love endures forever.

People: Come, let us raise the song of Harvest Home and worship God with joyful hearts! Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 721....."Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Bountiful God, you give us daily bread and satisfy our deepest hunger, yet like your people in the wilderness, we complain when life does not go our way. Like the first-called workers in the vineyard, we look at others with envy and measure grace by our own standard of fairness. Forgive us for taking your creation for granted and hoarding the fruits of your labor. Soften our hearts, loosen our hands, and teach us to rejoice in your radical generosity to all people. In Christ's name we pray, 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: God has given to each one of us such blessings and talents.

People: With joy we bring these gifts to God.

Pastor: You are blessed by God's absolute love and forgiveness for you.

People: We rejoice in that love and find healing and hope. 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, Joe Branca

Old Testament: Exodus 16:2-15 (Page 59)

Psalm: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 (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: Then he brought Israel out with silver and gold, and there was no one among their tribes who stumbled.

People: Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.

Lector: He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.

People: They asked, and he brought quails. and gave them food from heaven in abundance.

Lector: He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.

People: For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.

Lector: So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

People: He gave them the lands of the nations, and they took possession of the wealth of the peoples,

Lector: that they might keep his statutes and observe his laws. Praise the Lord!

Epistle: Philippians 1:21-30 (Page 1022)

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16 (Page 854)

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.”

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM.....“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Words by F. Pierpoint; Music by C. Kocher and W. Monk; Arr. By Dennis Allen

SERMON.....“Standing Firm”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 420.....“Jesus, the Very Thought of 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: Go now from this place with hearts overflowing with gratitude for God's harvest.

People: We go to cultivate peace, scatter seeds of kindness, and share God's abundance with all.

Pastor: Go in the joy of the Vine keeper who calls you, loves you, and sends you into the world.

People: Beyond complaint, into gratitude and generous service, we go in Jesus' name!

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 575.....“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

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 2025 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in honor of our grandchildren Shanelle, Miranda, Logan, Gavin, Garrett, Paige, Gaige, Chase and great grandchild, Colson Brooks by Ron and Deb Koch.

-Offering on Sunday, September 13, 2026: \$3,160.00

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

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

-TODAY we will collect the special offering to support the ministries of Bethany Children's Home. Offering envelopes are available on the table by the bulletins.

-A group motorcycle ride will follow the worship service TODAY.

-There will be a Spiritual Council Meeting for all Elders tomorrow, September 21 beginning at 7:00pm.

-There will be a Council of Churches meeting hosted here this Tuesday, September 21 beginning at 7:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

-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.

-Fellowship Time: Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 9:30am worship service on Sunday, October 11. 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, October 12** beginning at 8:30am and **Friday, October 16** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 13. If you are interested in knitting and/or crocheting, we can hook you up! Please speak to Nancy Dewald for more information. If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

-A Budget Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13 beginning at 6:00 PM.

-There will be a Schuylkill Association Fall Meeting on Sunday, October 18 beginning at 3:00 PM at Christ Church Barnesville. Please speak to Pastor Ken to learn more.

-The Consistory will meet on Tuesday, October 20 at 7:00pm in the conference room.

-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 Justin Morell, Joe Palerino,*** Gaije Guers, Wayne Davis, Ron Koch, Dick Clauser, Caitie Handling, Ilene Witmier, Ronnie Mengel, Brenda, John Borchick, 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, SEPTEMBER 20

Sunday, September 20 -Ride Your Motorcycle to church Sunday -Harvest Home -Bethany Offering

-Group Motorcycle ride following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Monday, September 21

6:00 – 9:00 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

7:00 PM -Spiritual Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 22

7:00 PM -Council of Churches Meeting hosted here

Wednesday, September 23

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 27

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Pack Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

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!

