

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, September 27, 2026

The Authority
of
Jesus

Matt 21:23-32

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Trinity, Tower City** 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 God of glory awaits,

People: Welcoming us to worship and praise.

Pastor: The Christ of humility is here,

People: Welcoming our needs and prayers.

Pastor: The Spirit of love gathers us in,

People: Binding us together as one. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 68.....“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Prince of peace, speak mercy amidst our quarrels and our dissensions. Forgive us for not listening to your words of love and peace. Shower us with your love, that we may remember to love others as fully as you love us. Bind us together with your Spirit, that we might live as one people—a people of one mind, one love, and one all-embracing compassion for all. 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: Take heart; have faith. The goal is in sight.

People: We will press on to take hold of it, as Christ has taken hold of us.

Pastor: In Christ we have no fear; for we are loved and forgiven. Thanks be to 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, Brook Koch-Guers

Old Testament: Exodus 17:1-7 (Page 60)

Psalm: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (Read Responsively)

Lector: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

People: I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

Lector: things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

People: We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Lector: In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

People: He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap.

Lector: In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light.

People: He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

Lector: He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13 (Page 1023)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 21:23-32 (Page 855)

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.....“Come, Let Us Sing” -Words and Music by Shane McConnell; Arr. by Kyle Hill

SERMON.....“Walk the Talk”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 123.....“Fairest Lord Jesus”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)...United Church of Christ Statement of Faith— adapted by Robert V. Moss

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother,
and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being,
creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.**

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness
declared through prophets and apostles.**

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,

**God has come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.**

**God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. 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 into your lives, listening for the call of God.

People: We will go into our communities with Christ-like humbleness.

Pastor: Give ear to the whispers and shouts of the Holy Spirit.

People: We will go to share the Spirit and encourage others in Christ.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 443.....“Trust and Obey”

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 from the 2026 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. David Reichert & George and Ida Reichert by the family.

-The bulletins are in loving memory of Beatrice L. Kreager, Jeanette Krammes and Elaine Krause by Linda, Dick, Christopher and Amy Clauser.

-Offering on Sunday, September 20, 2026: \$2,309.00

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

-Our church will be participating in Operation Christmas Child this year, with a goal of collecting **50 shoeboxes** to share the love of Jesus with children around the world. Shoeboxes and packing instructions will be available at the church in the month of **October**. **Deadline to return boxes: November 1st**. For questions or additional information, please contact **Laura Carll at (484) 269-4405**.

-It's that time again St Paul's! It's time for our Thanksgiving Food Drive collection. As always, the CHALLENGE is for AT LEAST 31 families to donate 31 items throughout the month of October! Flyers with suggested items are located on the bulletin table in the narthex. The goal is to collect 1000 or more items. If we have 31 families donate, our family will donate the remaining items to make sure we meet our 1000 items. This year, as a BONUS incentive, if the congregation donates at least 1000 items, our family will donate an additional 100 items. If the congregation donates 1500 items, we will donate an additional 200 items! If you are unable to shop but would like to donate, we will do the shopping for you! If you need us to deliver your items to the church let us know. Feel free to contact Brook Guers at 570-449-0825. LET'S GO ST PAUL'S! We can make this our most successful food drive yet!!!

-Next 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 are 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.

-Summer Hill Youth Group – Disaster Relief Bucket Challenge: The Summer Hill Youth Group will gather October 17 from 4:00–7:00 PM at St. Paul’s Summer Hill UCC to assemble five-gallon Disaster Relief Buckets for people in need. Youth will learn about serving their neighbors while working together in a fun, friendly relay-race competition! Food will be provided. RSVP to Laura Carll at (484) 269-4405 is appreciated but not required.

-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 Bud Kerschner***, 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 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, SEPTEMBER 27

Sunday, September 27

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Wednesday, September 30

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 4 -World Communion Sunday

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Neighbors in Need offering

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Pack Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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

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!





SUMMER HILL YOUTH GROUP = EVENT =

DISASTER RELIEF BUCKETS

We'll be building five gallon
Disaster Relief Buckets packed
with supplies to help people
in need!

We'll build them in a
team relay-race style!



OCTOBER 17
4PM - 7PM



ST. PAUL'S
SUMMER HILL UCC
1235 SUMMER HILL ROAD
AUBURN, PA 17922



FOOD
WILL BE
PROVIDED!



RSVP to Laura Carll
(484) 269-4405
is appreciated, but not required.

= Make a difference. Together. =