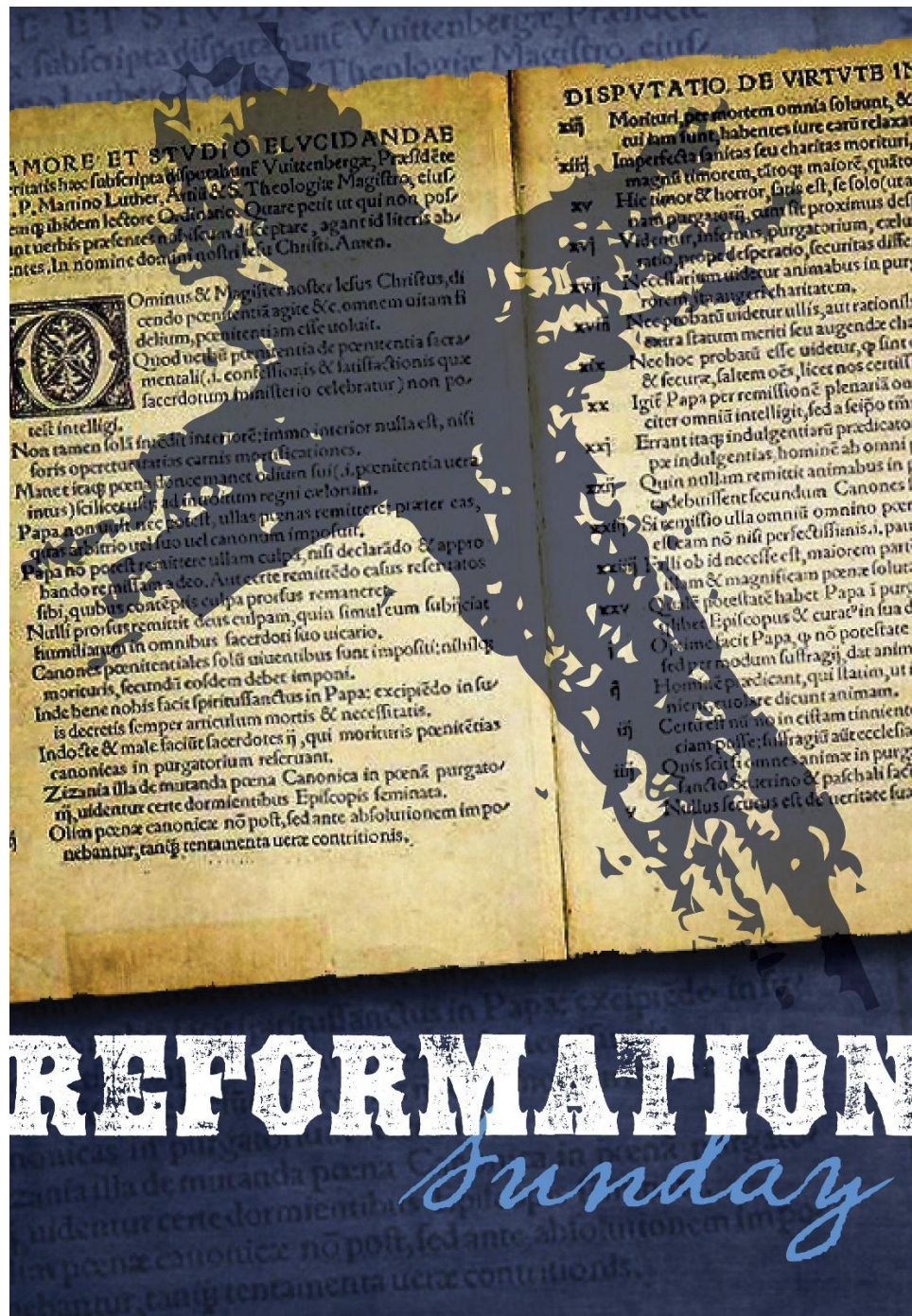


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, October 25, 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
Church Email: summerhillucc@gmail.com
Website: www.summerhillucc.com
Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

1782
Sunday, October 25, 2026

244 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2026
10:30am

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday

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, **Reformation Sunday**. 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: Come to us, O God.

People: Breathe through our worship with your Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Fill us with your faithful love.

People: Guide us with your ancient teachings.

Pastor: Come to us, O God.

People: Be in our prayer and praise. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 84.....“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

O God, our help and hope, you have been with us from the first moment of creation, forming and teaching us to be your people, to walk in your ways, and to live in your love. Come back quickly to us when we turn away. Give us your compassion and mercy when we feel lost and forsaken. Fill us with your faithful love and generous kindness, so our lives may be full and fulfilling, and the work of our hands may be your work in the world. In your loving 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 been our help and our hope from generation to generation.

People: God continues to be our help and our hope, both now and forevermore.

Pastor: So rejoice, you are the forgiven and beloved 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, Brook Koch-Guers

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 34:1-12 (Page 184)

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (Read Responsively)

Lector: LORD, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Lector: You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

People: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

Lector: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

People: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Lector: Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

People: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Lector: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

People: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Lector: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 (Page 1029)

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46 (Page 857)

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.....“We’re a Fellowship of Believers”
Words and Music by Jay Althouse & Peter Lutkin

SERMON.....“A Common Thread”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION.....“Ode to St. Paul’s”

*Rejoice! Ye sons and daughters a glorious day has come
Sing praise to God the Father for St. Paul's sacred home.
Inspired by hearts and shepherd, who toiled to build this shrine
When ruins stilled all voices, they looked to God for time.*

*Praise God for saints who labored to spread His name on earth,
And now rejoice in heaven, believed in Jesus' birth.
Praise God for deeds so glorious; rejoice for God's great love
His grace has kept her members to fill His choirs above.*

*Give thanks, we pray for friendships, Give thanks for vows upheld,
Give thanks for joys and sorrows, Give thanks for strife withheld.
Give thanks for glorious visions, Give thanks for works and deeds.
Give thanks for acts of mercy, Give thanks for perfect peace.*

*Now may St. Paul's be strengthened by pastors, pew and friend.
Keep fires of love-lights burning His kingdom to extend.
The harvest needs more workers of consecrated faith
To hear life's greatest challenge--Be faithful unto death.*

*Not farewell years of glory! Farewell to erring deed.
Farewell to happy memories, Farewell to friends we need.
Not "Farewell," but "Good Morning" when life's last breath is gone,
May loyal souls in glory, Hear God's reward "Well Done."*

*(The words of this hymn were especially written for the Dedication Service October 23, 1960,
by Mrs. Elizabeth B. Messner, who with her husband, the Rev. Eneas B. Messner, served St. Paul's from 1926 to 1934.)*

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Heidelberg Catechism: Questions 1, 31, and 34

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Pastor: Why is he called Christ, that is, the Anointed One?

All: Because he is ordained by God the Father and anointed by the Holy Spirit to be our ultimate prophet and teacher, who fully reveals to us God's secret council and will concerning our redemption, and also to be our sole high priest, who has redeemed us by the one sacrifice of his body and ever intercedes for us with the Father, and also to be our eternal king, who governs us by his word and spirit, and defends and sustains us in the redemption he has gained for us.

Pastor: Why do you call Him our Lord?

All: Because, not with gold or silver but with his precious blood, he has redeemed and purchased us body and soul from sin and the power of the devil to be his own.

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: As beloved children of God,

People: let's go to bring God's love to the world.

Pastor: Led by the teachings of Christ,

People: let's go to live the lessons of love, justice, and grace.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 581.....“Called as Partners in Christ's Service”

SILENT MEDITATION

Acolytes take the Light out into the world.

POSTLUDE

*** * * * ***

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

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

CCLI Copyright License Number 3253621 and CCLI Streaming License Number 20179084.

-The altar flowers are in memory of Alice and Shorty Wenrich by Bill and “Sus”, MaryJane, Lucille and families.

-The bulletins are in memory of Jennie and Milton Moyer by the family.

-Offering on Sunday, October 18, 2026: \$1,917.00

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

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

-The ANNUAL GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER will begin TODAY, Sunday, October 25th. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex of the church. **The due date for orders is Sunday, November 15th. Delivery of purchases will be Sunday, December 6th.** Don't forget that you can reload some gift cards online all year long with the profit automatically going to St. Paul's. There are many businesses listed on the order form found around our area with many more to choose from at raiseright.com. Any of those choices can be added on a separate sheet and included with your order form. C & C Candies and Country Store and Friedensburg Country Restaurant partner with us each year. Don't forget to shop local! Any questions about this sale, please speak to Rae Ann Borger.

-The Thirty-One Days of Giving Food Drive collection continues. As always, the CHALLENGE is for AT LEAST 31 families to donate 31 items throughout the month of October! (The deadline is next Sunday, November 1) Flyers with suggested items are located on the bulletin table. 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!!!

-We are participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year, with a goal of collecting **50 shoeboxes** to share the love of Jesus with children around the world. Shoeboxes and packing instructions are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. **The deadline to return boxes is next Sunday, November 1st.** For questions or additional information, please contact **Laura Carll at (484) 269-4405.**

-We will celebrate All Saints Day next Sunday, November 1. That morning during the service of worship and communion, we will honor the saints of our congregation who passed away in the past year. **We will also collect the All Saints Offering, which assists retired pastors from our conference who are in need of financial assistance.** Special envelopes are available on the bulletin table in the narthex.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will take place in the conference room. Please speak to Laura Carll, any Sunday School teacher, Pastor Ken or the church office for more information.

-Fellowship Time: Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 9:30am worship service on Sunday, November 8. 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 are greatly appreciated.

-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, November 10.** 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 Fall Worship Night will be held at the Walk In Art Center in Schuylkill Haven on Friday, November 13 from 5-9pm. All are invited and encouraged to attend! Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more info.

-The Keystone Conference Fall Meeting will be held online only on Saturday, November 14 beginning at 9:00 AM. Please speak to Pastor Ken to learn more.

-Mark your calendars! We need your help!! Our outdoor church grounds fall clean-up day will be on Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 AM. With enough help, we can have it completed in just a few hours! Bring rakes, tarps, clippers and pruners. Invite your friends and family and neighbors too!

-Newsletter articles for the combined December 2026 and January 2027 newsletter are due to the office by November 15. Thank you for your cooperation!

-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, November 16** beginning at 8:30am **and Friday, November 20** beginning at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office.

-The Boy Scout Troop is doing Wreaths Across America. The sponsorship cost for a wreath is \$17. Please use the following link to order online: www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org/PA1030P. You may also speak to Lorna Palerino to order directly. **The cut-off date for mail-in orders is November 16th, and for online orders is December 2.** Please see the flyer on the church bulletin board in the narthex.

-A joint (with our Lutheran friends) Thanksgiving Eve worship service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be held on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00pm. The service will be held at St. Paul's Summer Hill Lutheran Church, with Pastor Ken and Pastor Marie leading the service.

-We are looking for young artists to draw bulletin cover artwork: Children of all ages are invited to take part in the creation of biblically based (either Advent or the biblical account of the Christmas story) worship bulletin cover artwork, which will be used throughout the season of Advent and Christmas. Colorful drawings are encouraged, but we can also use black and white sketches. Children should print their first and last name somewhere on the front of the drawing. **A special recognition of children who participate will take place during the December 20 worship service.** The drawings will be used as bulletin covers beginning on the First Sunday of Advent which is **November 29**. Please either scan and email your child's drawing, or drop them off at the church office. Please see Kelly, call or email the church office if you need more information.

-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, *Marion Bartolet, Mikayla (North Schuylkill Student), the birth of June Jordan Palerino (daughter of Zach and Lexi), family and friends of Barbie Wenrich's father, family and friends of George Troxell*, Lou Borgatta, Verna Fidler, Autumn, Taylor and Parker (North Schuylkill Students), Joe Palerino, Donald Rubinkam, Ron Koch, Dick Clauser, Ronnie Mengel, 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

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Sunday, October 25 -Reformation Sunday

-Confirmation History Tour following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

Monday, October 26

6:00 – 9:00 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

Wednesday, October 28

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 1 -All Saints Sunday -Daylight Savings Time Ends

-Deadline for Shoebox gifts and the Food Challenge Collection

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with Communion, All Saints' Service of Remembrance and the All Saints' Offering

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

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!

