

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, October 4, 2026



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
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**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday, The Sacrament of Holy Communion
Communion Offering and the Neighbors in Need Offering**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **World Communion Sunday and the Neighbors in Need Offering.**

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.

(Communion note: This morning, as some of us are gathered together here at church while many are gathering with us virtually from their homes, we all are invited to the same table. Those present this morning will be served communion elements in the pews. Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The heavens proclaim the glory of God!

People: We too proclaim what God has done in our lives.

Pastor: Voices of praise shout to the ends of the earth.

People: May we join the chorus, as we sing of God's great and abiding love! Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 544....."The Church's One Foundation"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of grace, from the very beginning, you have watched over your people and given them ways to live in harmony with one another. But too often we have forgotten Your ways. Forgive us for mocking your holy name. Forgive us for harming others and ourselves. Forgive us for stealing others' ideas and property. Forgive us for being jealous. Forgive us for neglecting to rest our bodies, minds, and spirits. Forgive us for turning away from you. Holy One, grant us your mercy, and help us live again in your ways of love and grace. 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: Brothers and sisters and siblings in Christ, God will wipe away all our faults.

People: We know that the grace and mercy of God are never far from us, and that God desires that we live in righteousness.

Pastor: In the name of the risen Christ, you are 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, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 (Page 63)

Psalm: Psalm 19 (Read Responsively)

Lector: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Lector: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

People: yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

Lector: which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

People: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

Lector: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

People: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Lector: the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

People: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Lector: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

People: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Lector: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14 (Page 1023)

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46 (Page 856)

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.....“The Feast Divine”

Words and Music by D. Harris, M. Puryear, D. Liles and C. Waterman; Arr. by Terry Winch

RESPONDING TO THE WORD
The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 699.....“Let Us Break Bread Together”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation:
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Communion Prayer:

The Seraphic Hymn
*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory, Hosanna,
Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna
in the highest!*

The congregation may be seated.

Words of Institution:

Pastor: Holy are you and blessed is your beloved name.....And so, in remembrance of these, your life-giving acts of love and grace, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as children of your love, in union with Christ’s love for us, and our love for one another, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration:

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.

Breaking of the Bread:

Lifting of the Cup:

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

Thank you, Triune God, for feeding us abundantly from the storehouse of your mercy in Jesus Christ. You restore us, body and soul. You make us whole. Now send us forth into the messiness of our lives, as living witnesses of your renewing love that brings hope and wholeness today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: May the glory of our Creator be ever present with you.
People: May the peace of Christ become the foundation of our lives.
Pastor: Share the Spirit and encourage others in Christ.
People: We go forth to give God’s love and encouragement to the world.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 11.....“Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

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 Karin Ellis 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.
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-The altar flowers are in memory of mother, Mary Ella Hoy (her Birthday was September 24).

-The bulletins are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Reber by the family.

-Offering on Sunday, September 27, 2026: \$2,819.00

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

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

-TODAY is World Communion Sunday when 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.

-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!!!

-We will be 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. **Deadline to return boxes: November 1st.** For questions or additional information, please contact **Laura Carll at (484) 269-4405.**

-Fellowship Time: Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service next 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, Joe Palerino, 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, Brian Wood

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Sunday, October 4 -World Communion Sunday -Neighbors in Need Offering

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Den Meetings

Monday, October 5

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

Wednesday, October 7

5:00 PM -Boy Scout Sandwich Sale Pick-up

7:00 PM -Confirmation Class and Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 11

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

-Fellowship Hour following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Den Meetings

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

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!

