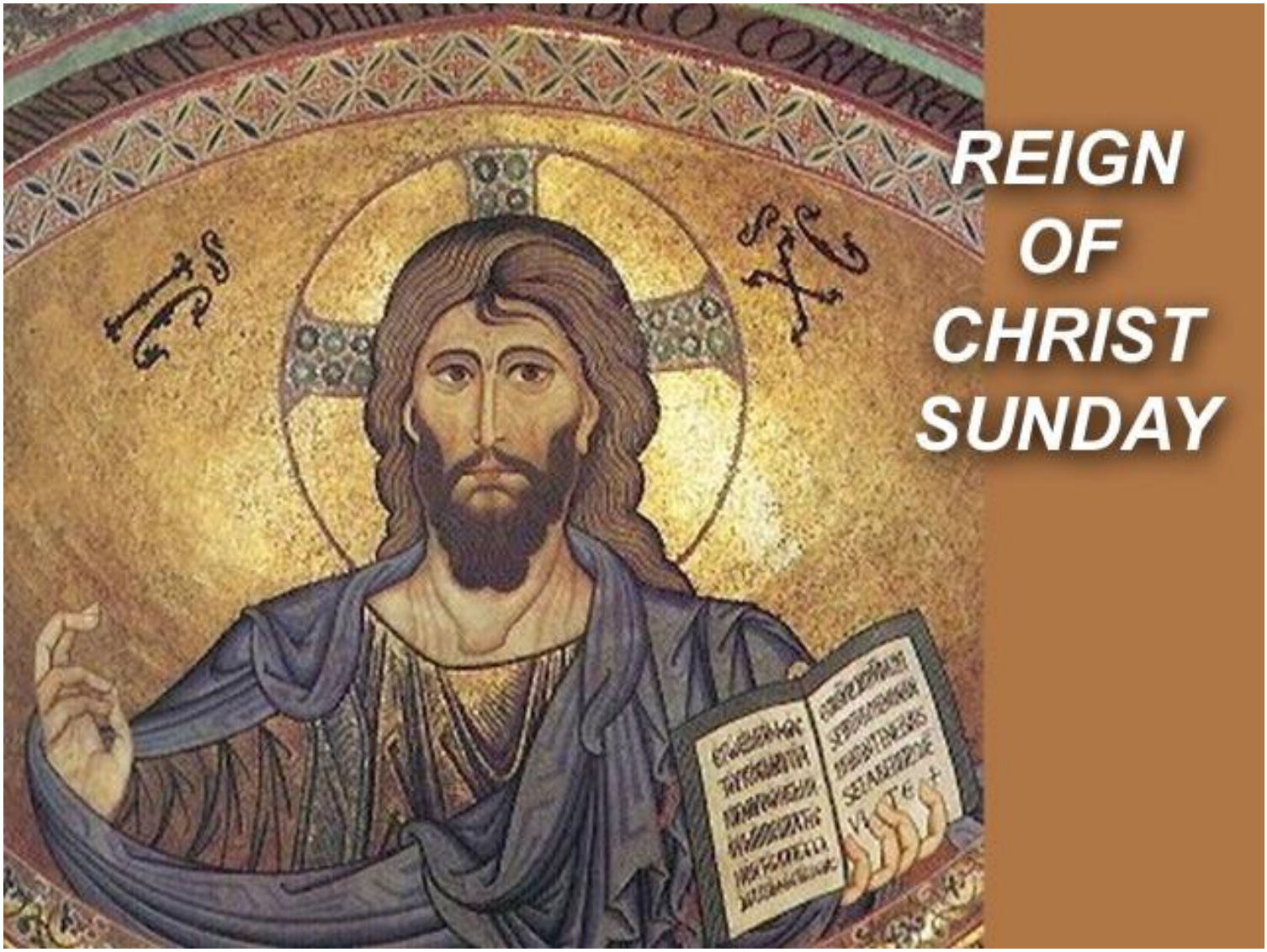
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, November 22, 2026



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 **244 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE** **2026**

Sunday, November 22, 2026 10:30am

Reign of Christ/ Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

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, **Reign of Christ**.

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: Enter God's gates with gladness,
People: and God's courts with praise.
Pastor: Rejoice as God's people,
People: and rest as sheep in God's pasture.
Pastor: Serve God with joyful hearts,
People: and worship God with justice and mercy. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 2……..…….."O Worship the King"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN **(Unison)**

Loving Shepherd, we have not always reached out to the lost and scattered sheep of your flock. We praise you with our lips, while averting our eyes from those in need. We lift our eyes to the starry heavens, while turning our gaze from those who cannot help themselves. Forgive us. Help us see others with the eyes of our shepherd, that we might be your loving presence in the world. 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: There is immeasurable greatness in the power of God for those who believe.
People: We Trust in the Lord, for God's grace is real.
Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, who is above all and in all, you are forgiven! 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:	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	(Page 744)
Psalm:	Psalm 100	**(Read Responsively)**

Lector: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
People: Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.
Lector: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
People: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.
Lector: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Epistle:	Ephesians 1:15-23	(Page 1017)
Gospel:	Matthew 25:31-46	(Page 861)

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……..."Lord, We Come to Worship You"
Words and Music by Keith Wilkerson; Arranged by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“You Get What You Ask For”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 440…….…….“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

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: Leave this place with thankful hearts.
People: We will make a joyful noise to our God.
Pastor: Bring shouts and laughter to the world.
People: We will sparkle with eyes enlightened.
Pastor: Proclaim the tender mercies of our God.
People: We will share the good news with all.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 14.....“Now Thank We All Our God”

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

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-The altar flowers are in loving memory of Harold Wildermuth by his family.

-The bulletins are in honor of Trevor Smith's birthday on November 24th, by his parents, Dave and Pauline and his sister, Lauren.

-Offering on Sunday, November 15, 2026: $3,104.00
-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2026: $3,368.52

-The November Communion Offering is designated to Servants to All- "My Father's House" which is a nonprofit organization that provides homeless services in Schuylkill County.

-**Christmas poinsettia orders are due TODAY.** Order forms are available on the table in the narthex. The cost is $11.00 each and they are coming from Kreider's Nursery. There are NO standing orders. If you always placed one in the past, you must re-order again this year. Money must accompany the order at the time it is placed. Please give all orders & money to Lori Moyer, Ardith Moyer or the church office.

-We will decorate the church for Advent/Christmas TODAY following Worship. Help is needed to not only decorate, but to carry the many boxes out of the attic. If you are able, please stay and lend a hand– get in the holiday spirit too!!

-**Jerusalem Lutheran Church will be holding a Thanksgiving Community Service and Choir Festival TODAY** at 3:00 PM. All are invited!

-**We are once again collecting new or gently used hats, gloves and scarves to be given to those in need. All items will need to be received by Sunday, December 6**, and can be placed on the Christmas tree or in the box located in the back of the sanctuary. Please speak to Kelly Palerino for info.

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

-**You are invited to an Ecumenical Christmas Cantata featuring the Zion Festival Orchestra next Sunday, November 29** at 7:30pm. "All Is Well- A Christmas Musical" will be held at Zion UCC Church, 225 Iron Street, Lehighton, PA 18235. Members of our choir will be participating in this annual musical Cantata.

-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.wreathsacrossamerica.org/PA1030P. There is also a flyer on the bulletin board with a QR code. **The deadline for orders is December 2.**

-**The Summer Hill Youth Group will gather Friday, December 4** from 6–8:30 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.

-All gifts for the Schuylkill County Children & Youth in Pottsville need to be returned to the church by Sunday, December 6. Please place gifts in the back of the Sanctuary. Please speak to Amy Zimmerman.

-**St. Paul's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6** following Worship **(the snow date will be Sunday, December 13).** The purpose of the meeting will be to review and vote on the proposed budget for 2027, and to elect new Consistory members. Please plan on attending this very important meeting.

-On Sunday, December 6 we will be Christmas Caroling to the shut-ins and elderly. We will be joining our sister congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church for this event. Everyone is invited to join us. We will be carpooling and leaving from St. Paul's UCC at 2:00pm. Please speak to Pastor Ken for more information.

-**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, December 8.** 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.

-**Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 13 for our Church Christmas Party sponsored by the Sunday School.** The party will follow our 10:30am worship that day. Hot Dogs and fix'ins will be provided along with drinks and snacks. You are welcome to bring your favorite treat or covered dish to share, but it is not necessary to bring anything other than yourself! Come enjoy the fun as we welcome our special visitor, Santa! Kids will receive a goodie bag. If you have any questions, please speak to any Sunday School teacher or Board of Christian Education Chairperson, Laura Carll. **The snow date for the party is Sunday, December 20.**

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

-The Bulletin and Altar Flower Sponsor List for 2027 is posted in the hallway next to the secretary's office door. If you are already on the list, and would like to make any changes, please do so at this time. There are openings for sponsorship throughout the year if you are interested. Please contact the church office if you have any questions about open dates, or would like to make any changes, removals or additions.

-**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, Brad Epler, Dave Heim, Nicole Laocuv, Marci Luckenbill-Felty, Marion Bartolet, Mikayla, Lou Borgatta, Verna Fidler, Autumn, Taylor and Parker, 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, Chelsea Garven, 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, NOVEMBER 22
Sunday, November 22 -Reign of Christ Sunday -Poinsettia order deadline
-Decorate the church following worship
4:00 PM -Cub Scout Den Meetings
Monday, November 23
6:00 – 8:30 PM -Boy Scout Meetings
Wednesday, November 25
7:00 PM -Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at the Lutheran Church (Pastor Ken will give the sermon)
Thursday, November 26 -Thanksgiving Day -Church Offices Closed
Sunday, November 29 -First Sunday of Advent
9:15 AM -Sunday School
10:30 AM -Worship with Advent Candle lighting and the 5th Sunday Offering (Food Pantry)

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	I Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

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!



RESCHEDULED!

New Date:
DECEMBER 4TH
6:00PM – 8:30PM

DECEMBER 4
6:00PM – 8:30PM

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.