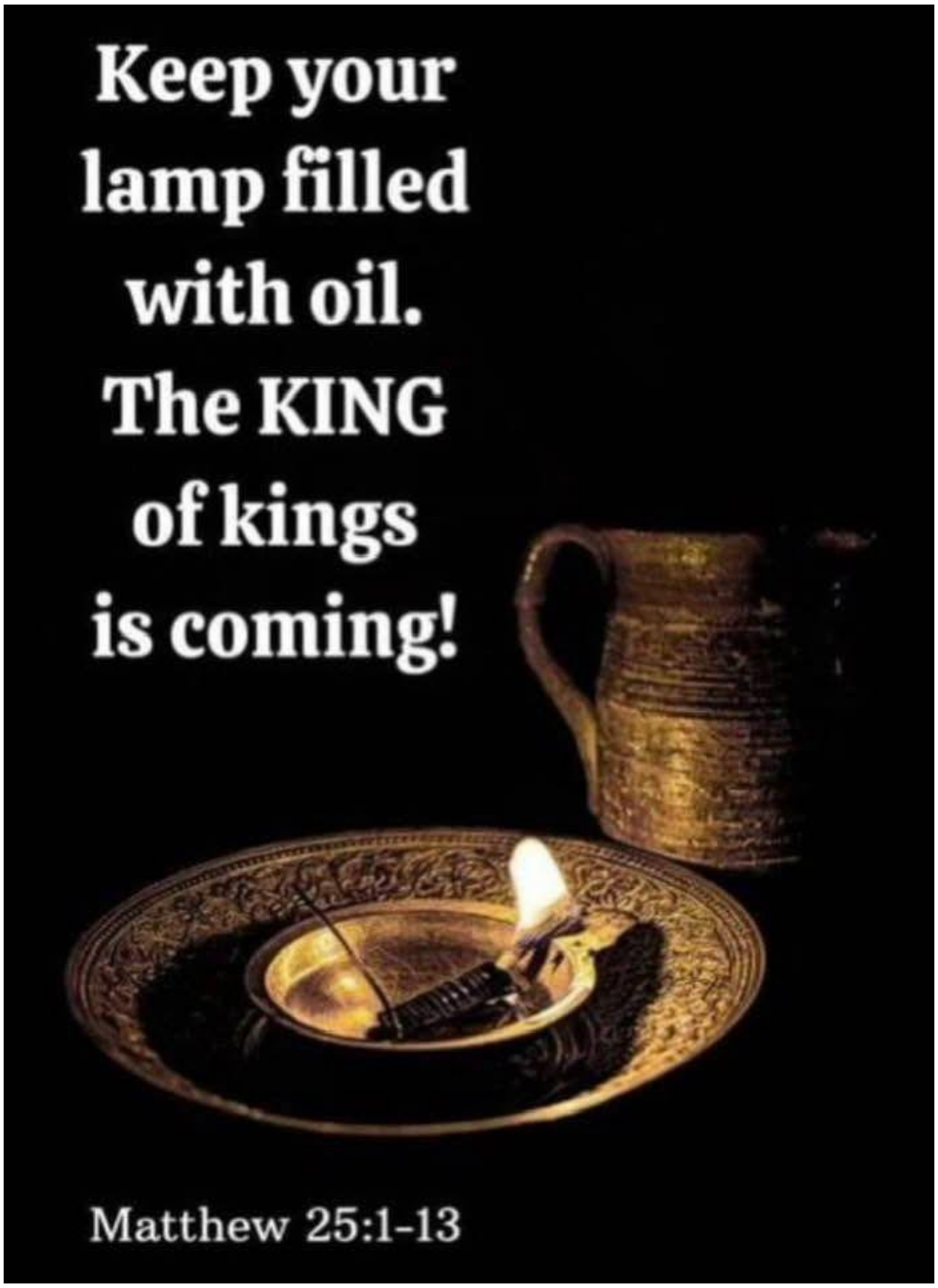
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, November 8, 2026



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 8, 2026 10:30am

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries,
Blessing of the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes, Stewardship Sunday

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Christ (Fountain), Hegins** 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.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT……Mike Rubinkam

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God is from everlasting to everlasting.
People: The Holy One inhabits all eternity and everything that is, or was, or ever will be.
Pastor: God is the source, guide, and goal of our lives.
People: We acknowledge God as the center of our lives and of our world, not ourselves.
Pastor: We come today to worship God.
People: We come with thanks and praise.
Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God's holy presence.
People: May God teach us the ways of life as we pray. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 342……..……...…."Rejoice, the Lord Is King!"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN **(Unison)**

Christ Jesus, we want to believe in your kingdom—a kingdom that is already, but not yet, in our midst. It seems so far off as we bear our load of suffering and grief. Forgive us when we become discouraged and distracted, and give in to our worries and fears. We want to trust that you haven't forgotten us. We want to wake up and choose to live our lives inside the rule of your love. We want to hope. We want to offer wisdom and encouragement to the generations to come. But we need your help. In your mercy, hear our prayer. 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: Beloved of Christ, get up and get dressed, it is time to go to a wedding! Trade your sweats for your fancy clothes.

People: We're kicking off our well-worn sneakers and lacing up our dancing shoes!

Pastor: Christ has already chosen you! Will you choose to live in Christ's love?

People: We choose God's saving love. We choose holy joy for our lives. We choose the Risen Christ.

ALL: Halleluia! 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

BLESSING OF THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD…….Lector, Joe Branca

Old Testament:	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	(Page 206)
Psalm:	Psalm 78:1-7	**(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, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

Lector: 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.

People: He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

Lector: That the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

People: So that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

Epistle:	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	(Page 1030)
Gospel:	Matthew 25:1-13	(Page 860)

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…….“God, My God” -Words, Music and Arrangement by Jeff Lippencott

SERMON.....“But Are You Ready?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 426……“Blessed Assurance”

CELEBRATION OF NOVEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Owen Luther, son of Craig and Vicky Borger
Evan William, son of Craig and Vicky Borger
Grant Donald, son of Craig and Vicky Borger
Kiyah Skye, daughter of Justin and Kelly Clauser
Colson Brooks, son of Derek Bedway and Shanelle Koch

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH……...Apostles Creed in the form of a Litany

Pastor: Do you believe in God?
People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, 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

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 with peace and with hope.
People: We will find our place every day inside God's saving love.

Pastor: Allow it to transform your ways.

People: We will open our eyes to those who suffer and offer God's love and hope with lavish generosity.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 711.....“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”

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 Leigh Anne Taylor *from the 2023 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

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-The altar flowers are in honor of, with a wish for a Happy Anniversary to Mommy and Daddy, from Kaitlyn and Kelly Reber. (Their Anniversary is November 13)

-The bulletins are in honor of Claire Nagle's Birthday (November 2) and Noah Nagle's Birthday (Nov. 27) by Grandparents, Tom and Lucinda Nagle.

-Offering on Sunday, November 1, 2026: $1,830.00
-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.

-Join us for fellowship-conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our worship service TODAY. 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 here.

-**The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this Tuesday, November 10 from 10am-12noon in the conference room.** 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 this Saturday, November 14** beginning at 9:00 AM. Please speak to Pastor Ken to learn more.

-**Our outdoor church grounds fall clean-up day will be this Saturday, November 14** at 9:00 AM. **We need your help!!** 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!

-**The ANNUAL GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER due date for orders is next Sunday, November 15th.** Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex of the church. **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.

-Newsletter articles for the combined December 2026 and January 2027 newsletter are due to the office by Sunday, November 15.

-**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.wreathsacrossamerica.org/PA1030P. You may also speak to Lorna Palerino to order directly. **The cut-off date for direct orders is November 16th, and for online orders is December 2.** Please see the flyer on the church bulletin board in the narthex.

-The Consistory meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00pm in the conference room.

-**Order forms for Christmas poinsettias 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. **The order deadline is Sunday, November 22.** Please give all orders & money to Lori Moyer, Ardith Moyer or the church office.

-We will decorate the church for Advent/Christmas on Sunday, November 22 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!!

-**We will once again be 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 that will be located in the back of the sanctuary on **November 22**. Please speak to Kelly Palerino for info.

-This year we are helping Schuylkill County Children & Youth in Pottsville for Christmas. All children's names are on the nursey windows to pick from. **All gifts need to be returned back to the church by Sunday, December 6.** Please place gifts in the back of the Sanctuary. All you need to do is: 1. Pick a child, 2. Write your name on the paper with the corresponding number, 3. Wrap gifts, stick in garbage bag with the tag attached to the bag. Thank you for helping a child have a great Christmas. Any Questions, please ask Amy Zimmerman.

-Jerusalem Lutheran Church will be holding a Thanksgiving Community Service and Choir Festival on Sunday, November 22, at 3:00 PM. All are invited!

-**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 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 **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 on 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.

-**Mark Your Calendars!! 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.

-**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 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.

-**Shut-In Mailing Sponsorship 2027:** We are very thankful to everyone who faithfully sponsors the shut-in mailings each month. The cost is $20, which enables us to continue to send bulletins to our shut-in members each month. If you would like to select a month for sponsorship, please sign the paper by the secretary's office door or call the church to have your name added. When paying, please note that it's for the shut-in mailing, along with the month you selected.

-**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, 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 8
Sunday, November 8
-Fellowship Hour following worship
4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings
Monday, November 9
10:30 AM -Pastor Ken conducts Chapel Service at Luther Ridge
6:00 PM -Boy Scout Court of Honor
Tuesday, November 10
10:00 AM -Prayer Shawl Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 11 -Veteran's Day
7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, November 14
9:00 AM -Keystone Conference Fall Meeting (online)/ Outdoor Fall Clean-up of church grounds
Sunday, November 15 -Deadline for gift card orders
9:15 AM -Sunday School
10:30 AM -Worship
4:00 PM -Cub Scout Pack Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Judges 4:1-7	Psalm 123	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30

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!