

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, May 26, 2024



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

**Trinity Sunday
Memorial Day Weekend**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Jacob Challenger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. Paul’s, Mahanoy City** from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar.

Please read the announcements that are in this downloadable bulletin, as well as those we post on our Facebook site, our emails, and our 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: Who is like our God in glory and strength?

People: The voice of the Lord thunders over the waters.

Pastor: Who is like the Lord in power and might?

People: The voice of God breaks the mighty cedars.

Pastor: Who is like the Holy One in awe and wonder?

People: The voice of the Almighty shakes the wilderness.

Pastor: God sits enthroned as King forever.

People: Worship God in holy splendor.

Pastor: Come! Let us worship the Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 136.....“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

*Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.*

*Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.*

*Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of power and might, we long to proclaim your glory with the seraphs and angels, yet your holiness is more than we can bear. We yearn to feel worthy of your calling, but often feel naked and lost when confronted with your majesty. Touch our mouths with coal from your sacred fire and grant us forgiveness, for we are a people with unclean lips and long to be made clean. Above all, heal our shut up hearts, O God, that we may say with the prophet Isaiah, "Here I am, send me." 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: Rejoice that God heals our fear with a spirit of strength and truth.

People: Give thanks that we are God's children and heirs with Christ.

Pastor: In Christ, we are the beloved and forgiven 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, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8 (Page 591)

Psalm: Psalm 29 (Read responsively)

Lector: Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

Lector: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

People: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic.

Lector: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

People: He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

Lector: The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning.

People: The voice of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

Lector: The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

People: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever.

Lector: The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Epistle: Romans 8:12-17 (Page 983)

Gospel: John 3:1-17 (Page 924)

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.....“America, the Beautiful” by Kris Crunk

SERMON.....“Describing the Indescribable”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 731.....“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

*My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims' pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring!*

*My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills like that above.*

*Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom's song;
let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.*

*Our fathers' God, to thee, Author of liberty, to thee we sing:
long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God, our King!*

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: Who will go to serve our God?

People: Even when we feel fearful, we will go to serve the Lord.

Pastor: Who will go to serve our neighbors?

People: Even when we feel unworthy, we will go to serve our sisters and brothers.

Pastor: Who will go to serve our world?

People: Even when we feel unprepared, we will go to serve God's people.

Pastor: We are your servants, Lord.

People: Send us.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 142....."Sing Praise to the Father"

*Sing praise to the Father, Creator and King,
whose mercy has taught us a new song to sing;
who made us, and loved us tho' rebels and lost,
and planned our redemption at infinite cost.*

Refrain: *Bless the Lord, bless the Lord, bless the Lord, O my soul,
for the grace that redeems, for the love that makes whole;
O come and adore him, his glories proclaim,
and worship before him--the Lord is his name!*

*Sing praise to the Savior, Redeemer, and Friend,
for grace past all telling, for love without end;
who stripped off his glory, put on mortal sin,
and died in our stead, full atonement to win. [Refrain]*

*Sing praise to the Spirit, the gift of God's love,
who quickens our hearts with new life from above,
who woos us, subdues us, and seals us his own,
and faultless presents us before the White Throne. [Refrain]*

*Sing praise to the Father, sing praise to the Son,
sing praise to the Spirit, great God Three in One;
the God of salvation, of glory, of grace,
who wrought our redemption--my soul, sing his praise! [Refrain]*

SILENT MEDITATION

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 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

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-The altar flowers are in memory of Geraldine and Merritt Runkle by the family.

-The bulletins are in honor of Lauren Smith's Birthday by parents David and Pauline and Trevor Smith
(Lauren's birthday is May 25th).

-The additional flower basket is in memory of those who served their country and gave their lives for their
country by the Summit Station Amvets Post 114.

-The flower arrangement at the War Memorial is sponsored by Ronnie and Cookie Mengel.

-Offering on Sunday, May 19, 2024: \$2,216.00

-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2024: \$3,243.09

**-The May Communion offering is designated to Phoebe Ministries. The June Communion offering is
designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries.**

**- A list of suggested items for the St. Paul's Food Challenge (through May 31) can be picked up in the
Narthex of the church.** These items can be used as a guide to help supply ingredients to provide three healthy
meals as well as a treat! We are asking for at least 31 of our households to donate 31 food items in 31 days!! We
will then provide the last 139 items to reach our goal of 1100 items. You may leave your donation at the back of
the sanctuary **by next Sunday, June 2** or contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 or by email at
bkochguers@comcast.net to arrange for one of the boys to pick up your donation at your home. Together we can
provide families with summer blessings!!

-There will be a **VBS Planning meeting here this Thursday, May 30** at 7pm in room B1. All are invited to attend.

-Our summer worship schedule will begin next Sunday, June 2. During the months of June, July and August, worship will be held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. **There will be no Sunday school during this time.** Worship will resume at 10:30am on Sunday, September 1.

-The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) Spring Annual Meeting will be held June 7-9 at The Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center, State College, PA. Please speak to Pastor Ken if you are interested in attending this important meeting.

-Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour): Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 9:30am worship service on Sunday, June 9. We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary the Second Sunday of each month. Catch up with old friends, make new ones, and stay up to date on everything happening at St. Paul's. And best of all, it's free of charge!! Help is needed: If you would be interested in helping to assist in hosting a fellowship hour, please contact the church office or speak to Pastor Ken.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room. **The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 11.** If you are interested in crocheting and/or knitting, we can hook you up! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office or Nancy Dewald.

-During our 9:30am worship service on Sunday, June 30, we will be recognizing and congratulating the graduates from our congregation. If you or someone you know is graduating from High School, College, a Technical School or some other institution of higher learning, **please contact the church office by June 16,** so that we may recognize them for their fantastic achievement.

-On Sunday, June 16 (Father's Day), we will be collecting a special offering designated to Locust Lake Camp Ministries. Special envelopes will be available on the bulletin table in the narthex.

-The third Sunday of the month is designated as "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday. The upcoming dates are June 16, July 21, August 18, and September 15. Spread the word, invite your friend, and join us for some fun and fellowship. If you would like to be notified of other rides throughout the summer, please notify the church office to have your name added to the "Biker" email list!

-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. **NO OUTDATED FOOD PLEASE. We will be helping Monday, June 17 at 8:30am and Friday, June 21 at 1pm.** Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-WELCOME TO SCUBA DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD! Vacation Bible School will be held at St. Paul's June 17-21. All children ages 4-12 (grade 6) are welcome and invited to attend. Please save the date and share with all your relatives, friends and neighbors. Registration forms are on the bulletin table and also included in the May newsletter. Forms can be submitted to the church office or to wareber@comcast.net. More information will follow via church newsletter, bulletins, email and Members of St. Paul's Facebook. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

-Outdoor worship services will be held once a month, the fourth Sunday of the month. Grab your lawn chair or favorite blanket and join us once again amidst the beauty of God's creation. **Our first outdoor service will be held on the front church lawn on Sunday, June 23 at 9:30am.** We will also worship outdoors on **Sunday, July 28, Sunday, August 25 and Sunday, September 22.** Please note: in case of inclement weather, the services will be moved inside and held in the sanctuary.

-On Sunday, June 30 we will collect the 5th Sunday offering which is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry. Special envelopes will become available.

-In an effort to keep our records up to date, we are asking that if you have had a change to any of your information, would like to add a cell phone number or email address, or just want to be sure we have your most current info., please contact the church office.

-Your help is needed!! We are still looking for some additional people to help run our sound and video equipment on a Sunday morning! Please let us know if you would be willing to help. We will then figure out a good mutual time to “train” those who are interested! Ideally, we will get a few people interested, and then sign up for Sundays either on a weekly or monthly basis, somewhat like the lectors.

-When you or a loved one is sick or in the hospital for an extended stay, please notify the church office. Please do not assume that the pastor will know you are there. We are served by many different area hospitals and do not know which one you may utilize. So please do not hesitate to let us know your condition so that Pastor Ken can provide you with spiritual care! You may call the church office at 570-754-7225 and leave a message 24/7 with your name, number, and what you are calling about. The staff will be notified remotely of your call and will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also email us at summerhillucc@gmail.com.

-Our church services are livestreamed on Facebook! We continue to reach many people who are unable to worship with us in person, giving them God’s message of hope and love. Call the church office if you or someone you know needs help getting online.

-Prayer is Powerful! Please continue to call the church office or email us your prayer concerns to be included on our prayer list. We believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you. **We have a prayer concerns email group for anyone who would like to join.** Contact the church office and we will be happy to add you to the email distribution list. The Agape Committee continues to send cards to members on the prayer concerns list, so please continue sharing your concerns with us. Thank you!!

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God’s help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, *family and friends of Mary Ella Hoy, Harold Berkheiser, Ronnie Faust, family and friends of Jerry Koch*, Fern Furman, Al Herring, Don Koch, Holly Koscak, Amy Koons, Dick Clauser, Lori Edwards, Mathias Nagle, Ron Mengel, Tom Toomey, Guy Fessler, Shirley German, Cassie Wolfe, Marion Bartolet, Mabel Edwards
CANCER PATIENTS: Wayne Alward, Boone, Marie Bleu, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Joanne Forbes, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperna, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Barry Webber, Terri Willard

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 26

Sunday, May 26 *Trinity Sunday *Memorial Day Weekend

Monday, May 27 *Memorial Day *Church offices closed

Tuesday, May 28

7:00 PM -Council of Churches Meeting hosted here

Thursday, May 30

7:00 PM -VBS Planning Meeting

Sunday, June 2 *Summer Schedule begins *Food Drive donations due

9:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Deuteronomy 5:12-15

Psalm 81:1-10

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Mark 2:23-3:6