

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, June 30, 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

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Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Honoring of the Graduates
5th Sunday Offering (Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry)**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. Paul’s, Ringtown** 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.

Congratulations to the following graduates:

College- Ashley Brown, Milena Krause, Sarah Palerino and Natalie Rubinkam

High School- Eliza Kline, Jordyn Moyer, Jane Phillips, Jenna Reber, Augustus Warke and Colby Ulsh

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Lord, come into our hearts today.

People: Heal us from all our pain.

Pastor: Lord, come into our lives today.

People: Bring us hope and peace.

Pastor: Come, let us worship God who brings hope and peace.

People: Praise be to God for God’s healing mercies. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 728.....“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Merciful Lord, we are so fearful these days. We encounter economic situations which threaten to destroy our lives; we encounter anger, fear and hostility, and we feel as though we are about to drown. We want to place our trust in you, but so many times before, when we have trusted others, we have been let down. Help us to truly trust your mercy and love. Heal and forgive our fears and sins. Open our hearts to receive your mercy and help us to become your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus’ Name. 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: Feel the touch of Christ on your heart!

People: God is with us now and always!

Pastor: You are healed and forgiven! Rejoice! 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, Bonnie Reber

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 (Page 264)

Psalm: Psalm 130 (Read Responsively)

Lector: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

People: Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Lector: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

People: But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

Lector: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

People: my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

Lector: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

People: It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 (Page 1008)

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43 (Page 871)

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.”

SERMON.....“Who Do You Turn To?”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 466.....“Take My Life and Let It Be”

RECOGNITION OF 2024 GRADUATES- PRAYER FOR THE GRADUATES

Pastor: Let us pray...We give you thanks O God, for the blessing of life and especially for the lives of our 2024 graduates. Give them strength, give them courage and give them a vision of the persons that you are calling them to be.

People: Endow them with the grace of kindness and compassion; and enrich them with Christ’s endurance when generous service wearies them.

Pastor: Awaken their minds to the wholeness of your creation, grant them that they may remain curious about the nature of things and that their daily inquiries may reveal to them your presence.

People: Grant us the grace to unite with them in the body of Christ, heeding together Christ’s call to lives of service and praise.

Pastor: Bind our hearts together in Christian love and unite us by your Spirit O God, to go wherever life takes us, knowing that you are with us always and forever, until the end of the age. Amen.

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITHHeidelberg 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: We have waited for the Lord, and God has not failed us.

People: We have reached for Christ, and he has met us where we are.

Pastor: Beloved of God, healed and forgiven, blessed and strengthened: go forth to be a blessing to others, proclaiming the love and mercy of God in all that you do and say!

People: We go in peace, to love and to serve, healed and free.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 730.....“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

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 Mary Petrina Boyd and Michael Beu from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers and bulletins are in memory of Brian Reber by Mrs. Dorie Reber.

-Offering on Sunday, June 23, 2024: \$2,555.00

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

-TODAY we will collect the 5th Sunday offering which is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry. Special envelopes are available on the table.

-There will be a Board of Christian Education Meeting this Tuesday, July 2 beginning at 7 PM.

-Join us on Sunday, July 14 following worship for a Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour). Enjoy conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments. 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. Please contact Lori Moyer or the church office if you would like to help or donate any treats!

-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 on Monday, July 15 at 8:30am and Friday, July 19** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-There will be a **Consistory Meeting on Tuesday, July 16** beginning at 7pm in the conference room.

-There will be a Blood Drive sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches on Thursday, July 18 from 1-6pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven.

-The third Sunday of the month is designated as “**Bring your motorcycle to church**” Sunday. **There will be a ride on 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!

-**Outdoor worship services are held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 9:30am. The next one will also be held on July 28 and then again on August 25.** Bring a lawn chair and join us once again amidst the beauty of God’s creation on our front lawn.

-**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, to include phone or cell phone numbers, email or home addresses, or any family updates.

-**Sound Board help is needed!!** If you are good with computers, please see Craig Borger or call the church office.

-**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!

-**Our church services are livestreamed on Facebook!** When you can’t join us in person, please join us on line!

-**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 for anyone interested.**

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God’s help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, *Kathy Kline*, Guy Fessler, Janet Bair, Paul Ciccone, Justin Burke, Ronnie Faust, Al Herring, Dick Clauser, Lori Edwards, Ron Mengel, Guy Fessler

CANCER PATIENTS: Wayne Alward, Boone, Marie Bleu, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Joanne Forbes, Meg Goodwin, 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, JUNE 30

Tuesday, July 2

7:00 PM -Board of Christian Education Meeting

Thursday, July 4 *Independence Day

***Church Offices Closed**

Sunday, July 7

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

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Psalm 48

Ezekial 2:1-5

Psalm 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13