



St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC

August 2024 Newsletter



Pastor's Page

Greetings Summer Hill!

It is hard to believe that we are already heading into the home stretch of summer! They say time sure flies by when you are having fun, and this community of faith has been having a lot of fun this summer.

In addition to the many wonderful family vacations that so many of our members have taken this summer, St. Paul's has had numerous events and fellowship opportunities that have kept us busy.

We kicked off the summer season with a trip to the ballpark to see the Reading Phillies win on a perfect evening complete with fireworks. We have had our outdoor worship services and 'Bring your motorcycle to Church' Sundays. We have had small group outings, to include a golf outing at Hidden Valley, kayaking, and enjoying God's beautiful creation.

We have welcomed new faces into our community, baptized children, and had weddings. We have volunteered our time in support of the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches and helped out at the food bank and raised funds to feed the needy and support local organizations.

We learned about the love of Jesus Christ for all people during our Vacation Bible School week for our young children, as we celebrated high school and college graduations for our young adults and got better acquainted with each other during our fellowship time after worship. We are updating our technology from new Wi-Fi, security, and audio visual capabilities while reducing the costs of maintaining our facility. The bandstand was painted and the pavilion picnic area got a much needed facelift!

We participated in the gathering of churches at the Schuylkill Association's Spring Meeting at St. Peter's Orwin, and at the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC) Spring Meeting held at Penn State along with the three other UCC Conferences in Pennsylvania, as we explore the exciting possibility of uniting to become one conference. Our Board of Christian Education and Consistory have continued to meet over the summer to plan events for the

months ahead and next year. When many churches are taking a break, we certainly have been going full steam ahead here at St. Paul's.

But as we approach the end of the summer break, we are now looking forward to our traditional Rally Day which will be held on Sunday September 8th. Rally day is observed in many Protestant Churches to celebrate the start of the new church year, and to rally all members and spark renewed interest in the ministries of the church. Rally Day is often celebrated in conjunction with the Sunday School's Promotion Sunday, when children and youth move up to new classes. However, it is not only to rally or gather the children back to church after a long summer, but to get *everyone* back involved in the life of our faith community.

On Rally Day, Sunday School Classes will begin again at 9:15AM, followed by worship at 10:30AM which includes the blessing of the Confirmands and Sunday School volunteers. Then, immediately after services we will welcome everyone back with a program of fun and fellowship to include a church wide picnic complete with hamburgers, hotdogs, and snacks. If you want to bring a favorite food dish to share, or a kid friendly lawn game to play, please bring it along with your favorite lawn chair, but it isn't necessary....just bring yourself. If you attended last year's event, I know you won't want to miss it this year, and if you haven't been to a rally day picnic in a while, you are certainly missing out on a lot of fun.

St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC is a vibrant community of faith because of each of you. We are busy doing wonderful things and spreading the love of Christ to neighbors near and far because of you. Without you, we are missing the wonderful gifts God has given you to contribute to our spiritual life. Start the new church year off by rallying back to church, getting involved, and becoming who God has called you to be...all the while having a lot of fun and making new friends.

I will see you all on Sunday September 8th for Rally Day Sunday, if not before!

Rally Day Blessings, Pastor Ken

Communion Offerings

The August Communion offering is designated to the Alzheimer's Association.

Summer Worship Schedule

During the month of August, worship is held at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. There is no Sunday school during this time. Worship will resume at 10:30am on **Sunday, September 1**. Sunday School will resume on **Rally Day, Sunday, September 8** at 9:15am.

Kayak Outing

A group outing to kayak at Sweet Arrow Lake, Pine Grove is planned for **Sunday, August 4**. Weather permitting, we will meet at the boat launch area located on Sweet Arrow Lake Road at 4pm. Please contact the church office for more information.

Fellowship Hour

Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 9:30am worship service on **Sunday, August 11**. 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 Lori Moyer, the church office or speak to Pastor Ken.



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, August 12** at 8:30am and **Friday, August 16** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

Consistory Meeting

The next Consistory Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, August 20** at 7:00pm.

Motorcycle Ministry

The third Sunday of the month is designated as "Bring your motorcycle to church" Sunday. A group ride will follow worship on **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 year, please notify the church office to have your name added to the "Biker" email list!



An outdoor worship service will be held on **Sunday, August 25**. Grab your lawn chair or favorite blanket and join us once again amidst the beauty of God's creation. Please note: in case of inclement weather, the service will be moved inside and held in the sanctuary.

Senior Scam Seminar

You're invited to a seminar with Senator Dave Argall, Representative Jamie Barton and representatives from the Senior Protection Unit of the Attorney General on **Wednesday, August 21** at 11am at the Orwigsburg Veterans Community Memorial Hall. Learn how to avoid the latest scams targeting senior citizens. RSVP's are required. Please call 570-773-0891 to reserve your spot.

Senior Choir

The Senior Choir rehearsals will resume on **Wednesday, August 21** and will continue each Wednesday evening beginning at 7pm. New members are always welcome! Please speak to our Music Director, Rae Ann Borger if you would like more information.

Offering Collection

Our members, friends and visitors give their offerings and donations to the church in many different ways, to include electronically via apps like Tithely and bank transfers. Some give quarterly, monthly or weekly. To help accommodate the varied ways of giving, we have placed an offering box in the narthex as well as offering plates by the pews in the rear of the sanctuary to place Sunday morning offerings as you enter or leave the sanctuary. However, we have heard that some forget to drop their offerings off, while visitors may be unaware of the remote offering collection. The Consistory has decided that beginning in September, we will continue to have the offering box and plates to drop off your offering before or after the service, but we will also have two ushers accept offerings during the Hymn of Reflection after the sermon 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!

There will be a Board of Christian Education Meeting on **Tuesday, September 3** at 7:00pm. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Rally Day and Church Picnic

Everyone is invited to come celebrate Rally Day Sunday on **September 8th**. Sunday School will resume this day and continue each Sunday beginning at 9:15am, followed by worship at 10:30am. Following our worship service on September 8, we will gather in our church picnic grove for fun and fellowship, games and yummy food. Hamburgers, hotdogs and other snacks will be served. You are welcome to bring your favorite dish and/or dessert to share, but it certainly is not necessary. You may want to bring a lawn chair or blanket and any kid friendly outdoor games to play too. We can't wait to see you there!

Sunday School Newsletter

"You shall love the lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." -Deuteronomy 6:5

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer, vacations and anything else you conquered this summer! First, let's start off with the start-up of Sunday School in a few weeks. Sunday School starts on September 8th, 2024. We will have Sunday School at 9:15am and then worship will begin at 10:30am. Following church worship, we will have our Yearly Rally Day filled with a covered dish picnic, games and crafts. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Christian Education Secretary,
Amy Zimmerman

Mailing Addresses, Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

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.

AV System Volunteers

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.

Altar Prep Volunteers

We are still in need of altar prep volunteers. Everyone is welcome! It will be a rotation schedule on a weekly basis. You can sign up for one week or multiple weeks. Your assistance is needed to change the altar paraments, make sure altar flowers are changed and the oil candles are filled. "Training" will be provided! It's a minimal commitment, but a great help in keeping our services running smoothly. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please speak to Kelly Palerino.

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible."

—Corrie ten Boom



FREE COMMUNITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 ✦ 11 TO 6

Featuring performances by

WANDER NO MORE ✦ MERCY RUN

ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE MEN'S CHOIR

SWEETLIFE MUSIC ✦ EMILY HIGH

MICHAEL WELCH ✦ THE ALLY J BAND

**FREE Admission & Parking • FREE Live Music
FREE Children's Area including Bounce Houses, Train,
Petting Zoo, Crafts & More! • Food Trucks • Car, Truck,
Tractor & Motorcycle Show • Ice Cream • Recovery Church**

**Stop 'n Rock
1008 Rock Road, Pine Grove, PA**

For more details visit www.onerockonecommunity.org



We are an organization of multiple churches called together for the common purpose of spreading the Gospel and reaching out to share the message of salvation.

Thank You!!

-to John and Beth Satterwhite for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for August 2024

-Dear Members of St. Paul's,

We would like to say thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy we received after the passing of Harold W. Berkheiser. Your concern for us during this difficult time was uplifting and certainly appreciated. Thank you for your support during our time of need.

The Berkheiser Family

-for a member's donation of Thrivent Choice® dollars (\$18.00)

-Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for the generous gift and recognizing my college graduation. I appreciate the church's love and support and am so grateful for my church family!

With gratitude,
Natalie Rubinkam

Graduate Recognition Continued (those not highlighted in the July)

College Graduates

Ashley Brown

Ashley Brown, daughter of Steve Brown and Veta Frank graduated from Temple University where she majored in Pharmacy. Ashley was enrolled in the Advanced Clinical Practice Track where she earned a PharmD degree. During her time in college, Ashley received the following special honors: Graduated summa cum laude; received a Merck & Company Award. Ashley has begun her Post-Graduate Year-1 (PGY-1) Residency at Lehigh Valley Cedar Crest. She will be considering a PGY-2 in one of her areas of interest. She plans to pursue a career in clinical pharmacy.

Milena Krause

Milena, daughter of Roger & Tammy Krause graduated from Slippery Rock University with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Criminal Justice.

She studied "comparative criminal justice" abroad in London. During her time in school, Milena was involved in the following activities: Board member of Alpha Phi Sigma – Criminal Justice Honor Society, Board member of the Criminology Club, Volunteer work, and a roundtable discussant at the PACJE conference for criminal justice educators. Milena's future plans are to work in a juvenile department and become a Juvenile Probation/ Parole Officer.

High School Graduates

Jane Phillips

Jane Phillips, daughter of Jonathan and Julie Phillips graduated from Floyd E. Kellam High School, Virginia Beach, VA. She was enrolled in the following special courses: AP English, AP Calculus, AP Human Geography, AP American History, AP European History, AP Environmental Science and AP Psychology. Jane was involved in the following activities: Multiple leadership roles, including team captain for Varsity Swim, Varsity Indoor Track, Varsity Outdoor Track, and Cross County. She was the president of Environmental Club and enrolled in leadership workshop. She received the following special honors: Virginia State Champion in Women's Class 5 Cross Country, VA State Champion in Women's Indoor Track in the 1000m and 1600m, and VA State Champion in Outdoor 800m and 1600m. Jane was also active as an open water lifeguard for the city of Virginia Beach and a volunteer at an animal rescue shelter. Jane has already started the US Naval Academy on June 27.

Colby Ulsh

Colby Ulsh, son of Jason Ulsh and Lori Ulsh graduated from Blue Mountain High School and Schuylkill Technology Center. He was enrolled in Diesel Technology and received the special honor of Outstanding Senior Achievement Award for Diesel Technology. During his time in high school, Colby was also involved with YHEC (Youth Hunter Education Challenge) and the Summit Station Fire Company. He is currently working at Sands Ford in Pottsville. He is looking to gain his CDL license and operate heavy equipment.

Congratulations to all our Graduates!!

Baptism

Mathias Joseph Nagle

Mathias, son of Joseph and Tamara Nagle was baptized on Sunday, July 14, 2024 by Rev. Ken McDowell. Mathias has proud siblings: Elias, Abram, Jeremiah and Hannah. His grandparents are Kenneth & Lucinda Nagle and Jim & Tammy Hossler. His Godparents are Alex & Sophie Smith and Jarred & Sarah Wilhelm.

Bible Quiz

What kind of birds does God use to supply Elijah with food at the Kerith Ravine?

- A. quails
- B. ravens
- C. eagles
- D. doves

Answer: B (See 1 Kings 17:2-6.)

Christian Symbol



WEDDING RINGS — The exchange of wedding rings isn't found in Scripture. It came into practice among Christians in the late ninth century. The unending circle profoundly symbolizes a couple's mutual promises of ongoing love and commitment, as well as God's promise of eternal love that surrounds all — including each couple and marriage.

Following Christ

To have faith in Christ means, of course, trying to do all that he says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus, if you have really handed yourself over to [Christ], it must follow that you are trying to obey him.

But trying in a new way, a less worried way. Not doing these things in order to be saved, but because he has begun to save you already. Not hoping to get to heaven as a reward for your actions, but inevitably wanting to act in a certain way because a first faint gleam of heaven is already inside you.

—C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Sabbath Sight

Miners used to use mules underground to pull the loaded carts. Spending so much time in the darkness, some mules eventually went blind. But one old miner found a solution: He simply let the mules spend one day a week outside the mines.

In a very real sense, God gave us the Sabbath to keep us from going spiritually blind. The Sabbath, as Jesus said, was made for humankind, but to use in sacred ways. It's our responsibility as followers of Jesus to decide how to best keep the intent of this commandment.

How might observing Sabbath improve your ability to "see" clearly?

*"The greatest thing that we can do
is to help somebody know
that they're loved and capable of loving.*

—Fred Rogers

*"That the birds of worry and care fly over your
head, this you cannot change, but that they build
nests in your hair, this you can prevent."*

—Chinese proverb

Confirmation Class Sign-ups

It's time to register for Confirmation class. 1st year confirmation classes are available to any young adult turning 12 or entering 7th grade this year.

To register, please turn in a completed form to the church office by **Sunday, August 25th**. Confirmands will identify someone to serve as their mentor. Mentors must be either persons currently serving on Consistory or a member of the Spiritual Council and may not be immediate family members.

Confirmation Classes will begin on Rally Day **Sunday, September 8th** at 9:15 AM, with a confirmand, parent and mentor meeting. At this time, confirmation requirements and expectations will be reviewed with confirmands, their parents and mentors signing the Confirmation Covenant. A blessing of the Confirmands will be conducted during Worship after the meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Ken McDowell.

* * *

Eligible Mentors:

Current Consistory Members...

Pam Clauser	Clint Clauser
Mike Fessler	Robin Ferguson
Kathy Kline	Carol Mengel
Lori Moyer	Jeff Palerino
Mike Reber	Terri Saunders
Tom Saunders	Trevor Smith

Spiritual Council Members...

Deb Bailey	Brian Clauser
Rob Clauser	Verna Ebling
Debra Koch	Lori Moyer
Paul Moyer	Earl Phillips
Bill Reber	Libby Zimmerman
Pam Clauser	Cookie Mengel
Jeffrey Palerino	Eric Reber
Tom Nagle	Helen Michelson
Ray Riegel	Mike Fessler
Kathy Kline	Robin Ferguson

Confirmation Class Registration Form

Name: _____
(please include middle name)

Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Parents: _____

Grade Entering in Fall: _____

Birth Date: _____

Baptismal Date: _____

Baptismal Church: _____

Mentor: _____



August Birthdays

- 1 - Debbie Langan
- 2 - William Reber
 - Jaime Cutter
 - Tyler Ulsh
- 3 - Kaitlyn Reber
- 5 - Pauline Smith
- 6 - Ava Clauser
- 10 - Brian Blankenhorn
- 11 - Kiyah Clauser
- 12 - Jared Frantz
- 13 - Joelle Krause
- 14 - Adalynn Warke
- 15 - Daniel Elo
- 19 - Wyatt Moyer
- 20 - Cathy Krause
 - Lauren Marra
- 21 - Verna Ebling
- 22 - Steven Brown
- 24 - Daniel Heim
 - Gina Lassandro
 - Jade Phillips
- 26 - Lorraine Phillips
 - Joseph Lassandro III
- 30 - John R. Ulsh
 - Jacoby Edwards
- 31 - Mackenzie Miller

August Anniversaries

- 2 - Karen and Robert Schultz
- 4 - Herm and Nancy Clauser
 - Jennifer and Thomas Delong
 - Andrew and Elizabeth Good
- 5 - Joe and Lorna Palerino
- 13 - Don and Rae Ann Borger
- 16 - Nick and Janet Rodnick
- 18 - Leroy and Linda Knapp
- 19 - Joe and Cheryl Zimmerman
- 20 - Wayne and Cathy Krause
- 22 - Mark and Lori Moyer
- 25 - Christine and Clint Clauser
- 26 - Ronald and Esther Mengel
 - Mark and Nancy Dewald
- 27 - Wade and Diona Sterner
- 29 - Casey and Stephen Horvath

August Baptismal Anniversaries

- Jonathan Richard, son of Jeremy and Lynn Warke
- Porsche Faith, daughter of Bruce Martin Jr. and Kendra Kline
- Kinsley Rose, daughter of Bruce Martin Jr. and Kendra Kline

Lectionary Readings:

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 4

2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a

Psalm 51:1-12

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Psalm 78:23-29

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 11

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

I Kings 19:4-8

Psalm 130

Psalm 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 18

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Psalm 111

Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm 34:9-14

Ephesians 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 25

1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 1

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Psalm 15

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Christian stewardship is grateful and responsible use of God's gifts in the light of God's purpose as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscious, purposeful decisions.

An important part of that commitment is joining a particular faith community as a member of a church. Church membership is not to be taken lightly. It is a solemn pledge made to follow Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and to participate in Jesus' ministry as part of the Body of Christ.

Each of us who joined St. Paul's Summer Hill United Church of Christ, pledged our support and participation by answering the following questions.

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? **Response: "I do."**

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ? **Response: "I do."**

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? **Response: "I do."**

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able? **Response: "I promise, with the help of God."**

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world? **Response: "I promise, with the help of God."**

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world? **Response: "I promise, with the help of God."**

We give thanks to God for all of our faithful members who live their lives in accordance with these vows made before God. Without their active participation in all aspects of church life as well as their financial support and sharing of their spiritual gifts, St. Paul's would not exist. Without them, our doors would have closed long ago, as so many churches have done in the recent years.

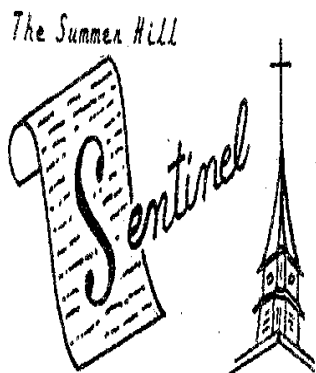
Unfortunately, many church members are quick to call upon the church in their time of need and expect the church to respond and support them, however, many of those same members do not feel the same need to support the church with either their attendance or gifts. Although there are exceptions, this often indicates they did not take their vows seriously. For them, membership is a one way street - it is all about taking care of themselves, and not about them taking care of others through the work of the church.

Churches do not need more names on a member list, rather, churches need more active participation and hands on support. Churches are not organizations full of paid staff members hired to serve its members like a country club, rather, churches are its members who take care of each other as a family.

We pray that all members who have not actively supported their church since they took their vows of participation have found a church where they are able to be part of the Body of Christ. If not, we pray that the Holy Spirit will lead them back to us, where together we can grow in our relationship with Christ and each other. St. Paul's and the Body of Christ need each and every one of its members, and we need them here with us. Please prayerfully consider how seriously you take the vows you made.

August 2024

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
1235 Summer Hill Road
Auburn, PA 17922**



Church Phone: 570-754-7225
Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor: 610-207-4783
Office Hours: Tues.– Friday 9am - 2pm
Email: summerhillucc@gmail.com
Website: www.summerhillucc.com

Address Service Requested

Visit the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference –
www.psec.org
Visit the United Church of Christ – www.ucc.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell
Church Administrator & Cleaning: Kelly
Palerino
Music Director/ Pianist: Rae Ann Borger
Organists: Jacob Challenger/ Colin Andrew
(Supply)

Lay Leaders

Consistory President: Pam Clauser
Consistory Vice President: Jeff Palerino
Secretary: Trevor Smith
Assistant Secretary: Mike Fessler
Treasurer: Lori Moyer
Financial Secretary: Kathy Kline

Board of Christian Education:

Chairperson - Laura Carll
Vice-Chairperson - Vicky Borger
Secretary - Amy Zimmerman
Sunday Morning Coordinator: Trevor Smith
Assistant Sunday Coordinator: David Deibert
Stewardship/Mission: Lori Moyer, Tom
and Terri Saunders, Kathy Kline, Carol
Mengel and Trevor Smith
Budget Committee: Pam Clauser
Personnel Committee: Lori Moyer
Prayer Shawl Ministry Chair: Nancy Dewald

August 2024