

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, July 28, 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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost/ Outdoor Worship Service

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Berger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. Peter’s, Pine Grove** 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.

For safety, the congregation may remain seated throughout the entire service, but feel free to stand at any time in response to the urging of the Holy Spirit.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: May every family in heaven and on earth gather in name and spirit.

People: May God pour out courage and compassion on our congregation through the Spirit.

Pastor: May our minds be open, that Christ may dwell within.

People: May our hearts receive the fullness of our faith.

Pastor: From generation to generation,

People: God’s grace is abundant! Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 35.....“Morning Has Broken”

*Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.*

*Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Holy One, we come before you with contrite hearts. You know what we’ve done and left undone. You know who we’ve betrayed and excluded. Yet you love us still. We do not mean to hurt or cause harm, yet we easily cover up our wrongs. We bow before you in hope and trust that you won’t push us away, but will draw us home once more into the arms of your never-failing love. 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: The love of God is your firm foundation; by faith you are rooted deeply in the Lord.

People: May we know the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge.

Pastor: May you attain the fullness of being forgiven and beloved, the fullness of life that God brings. 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.

ENGAGING THE WORD

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector, Gavin Guers

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm: Psalm 14 **(Read Responsively)**

Lector: Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.

People: The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

Lector: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

People: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the Lord?

Lector: There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

People: You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

Lector: O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

Epistle: Ephesians 3:14-21

Gospel: John 6:1-21

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.....“Faith in the Face of Challenge”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 420.....“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

*Jesus, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.*

*No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than thy blest name, O Saviour of us all!*

*O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek,
to those who ask, how kind thou art, how good to those who seek!*

*But what to those who find? Ah, this no tongue nor pen can show;
the love of Jesus, what it is none but his loved ones know.*

*Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now, and through eternity.*

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.

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

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 to follow Jesus,

People: The one who gives us the bread of life.

Pastor: Go to walk in the ways of Christ,

People: The one who strengthens us in our inner being through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Go to serve our living Lord,

People: The one who gathers the fragments of our lives, that nothing may be lost.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 665.....“Break Now the Bread of Life”

*Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord; my spirit longs for you, O living Word.*

*Bless your own Word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All in all!*

*You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me; your holy Word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.*

*O send your Spirit now, dear Lord, to me, that he may touch my eyes and make me see.
Show me the truth made plain within your Word, for in your book revealed I see the Lord.*

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 Leigh Ann Shaw
from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.
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- Offering on Sunday, July 21, 2024: \$2,060.00
- Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2024: \$3,243.09

-A group kayak outing at Sweet Arrow Lake, Pine Grove is planned for next Sunday, August 4. We will meet at the boat launch located on Sweet Arrow Lake Road at 4pm. Please contact the church office.

-Join us for Fellowship Time on Sunday, August 11 following worship. 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 needs 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, August 12 at 8:30am and on Friday, August 16** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-The third Sunday of the month is “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 summer, please notify the church office.

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

-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 Berger if you would like more information.

-You’re invited to a Senior Scam 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.

-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**. Confirmation Classes will begin on Rally Day **Sunday, September 8th** at 9:15 AM, with a confirmand, parent and mentor meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Ken.

-There will be an Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, August 25 at 9:30am. Bring a lawn chair and join us once again amidst the beauty of God's creation on our front lawn. In case of inclement weather, services will be held indoors in the sanctuary.

-Please note that our regular 10:30am worship schedule will begin on Sunday, September 1. On Sunday, September 8, everyone is invited to come celebrate the beginning of our Sunday School year on Rally Day. There will be Sunday School at 9:15am, followed by worship at 10:30am that day. **Following our worship service, we will gather in the grove for a church wide picnic and enjoy fun and fellowship, games and food.** Hamburgers, hotdogs and other snacks will be served. You are welcome to bring your favorite dish 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!

-Mark Your Calendars for the One Rock, One Community Free Community Music Festival on Saturday, September 14 from 11 AM-6:00 PM at the Stop 'N Rock off of Route 895 in Rock. Free admission & parking, FREE live music, FREE children's area including bounce houses, train, petting zoo, crafts and more! There will be food trucks, a car, truck, tractor & motorcycle show. **There are many volunteer opportunities for anyone who would like to help.** Please contact Pastor Ken if you are able to help in any way.

-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, *Woody Silver, Jonathan and Jane Warke, family and friends of Barry Webber, family and friends of Kenny Heinbach, family and friends of Brandon Harris,* Mabel Edwards, Dick Clauser, Nathan Hibbard, Kathy Kline, Guy Fessler, Al Herring, Lori Edwards, Ron Mengel

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, Holly Koscak, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Terri Willard

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 28

Sunday, August 4

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

4:00 PM -Kayak outing at Sweet Arrow Lake/ 5:00 PM -Boy Scout Court of Honor and covered dish

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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