

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, August 25, 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

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Worship Service**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **UCC Local Church Ministries.**

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: God is our sun and our shield.

People: God’s glory shines upon us.

Pastor: God is our strength and our hope.

People: God’s faithfulness guides us.

Pastor: God is our hope and our salvation.

People: God’s love and mercy welcome us. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 148.....“Come, Thou Almighty King”

*Come, thou Almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise:
Father, all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.*

*Come, thou Incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend:
come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success: Spirit of holiness, on us descend.*

*Come, Holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour:
thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power.*

*To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence, evermore!
Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Glorious God of spirit and life, we long to look upon your face and live. We yearn to shine with your glory, despite our tarnished lives. We seek to stand firm and faithful, even when the storms of life threaten us. Forgive us when we go astray. Lift us up with your mercy, that we may perceive your loving grace. Light our paths with your wisdom and strengthen us with your powerful Spirit, that we may follow you faithfully all the days of our lives. 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: God is our sun and our shield.

People: Christ is the bread of our lives.

Pastor: The Spirit is our strength and our power.

People: In these truths, we are clothed with protection to live with justice, truth, and peace.

Pastor: Then rejoice, for in the name of Jesus Christ, you are healed, restored, and forgiven. 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, Mike Reber

Old Testament: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm: Psalm 84 (**Read Responsively**)

Lector: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

People: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

Lector: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

People: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

Lector: Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

People: As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

Lector: They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

People: O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

Lector: Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

People: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

Lector: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

People: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel: John 6:56-69

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.....“The Heart of a Warrior”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 668.....“Wonderful Words of Life”

*Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life.
Words of life and beauty, teach me faith and duty:*

Refrain: *Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.*

*Christ, the blessed One, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life.
All so freely given, wooing us to heaven: [Refrain]*

*Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life.
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever: [Refrain]*

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: Led by Christ,

People: We go now to serve.

Pastor: Strengthened by the Spirit,

People: We go to bring justice and peace.

Pastor: Guided by God,

People: We go in God’s glory and grace. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 509.....“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before;
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe; forward into battle, see his banners go.*

Refrain: *Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.*

*Like a mighty army moves the Church of God; Christians, we are treading where the saints have trod;
we are not divided, all one body we, one in hope and doctrine, one in charity. [Refrain]*

*Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the Church of Jesus constant will remain;
gates of hell can never 'gainst that Church prevail; we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.
[Refrain]*

*Onward, then, ye people, join our happy throng, blend with ours your voices in the triumph song;
glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King: this thro' countless ages with the angels sing. [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 Mary J. Scifres
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 Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Reichert by the family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Robert D. Kreager by Linda and Arlene.

-Offering on Sunday, August 18, 2024: \$2,601.00

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

-Today is “Bring your motorcycle to church Sunday” and a group ride will follow worship.

-TODAY is the deadline to register for Confirmation class. 1st year confirmation classes are available to any young adult turning 12 or entering 7th grade this year. Classes will begin on Rally Day **Sunday, September 8** at 9:15 AM, with a confirmand, parent and mentor meeting. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Ken.

-The Senior Choir rehearsals have resumed and will be held 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.

-Our members, friends and visitors give their offerings and donations to the church in many different ways, to include electronically via apps like Tithe.ly and bank transfers. 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!

-Please note that our regular 10:30am worship schedule will begin next Sunday, September 1. We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion that day. **(no Sunday School until September 8)**

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

-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.

-There will be a **blessing of the Sunday School teachers, leaders and the confirmands** during our 10:30am worship service on **Sunday, September 8.** We hope to see you there!

-Following our worship service on Rally Day, Sunday, September 8, we will gather in the grove for a church wide picnic and enjoy fun, fellowship, games and food. Hamburgers, hotdogs and other snacks will be served. You’re welcome to bring your favorite dish to share but it certainly is not necessary. You may want to bring a lawn chair, blanket and any kid friendly outdoor games to play too. We can’t wait to see you there! Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the bulletin table to help in the food preparation planning.

-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.

-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, September 16** at 8:30am and **Friday, September 20** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-When you know your address (or your child's) and email for the upcoming school year, please share this information with the church office- call, email at summerhillucc@gmail.com or just write it down and put it in the mail slot on the secretary's office door. We would like to have your information so we can continue to send the Newsletter, church mail and various emails. Thank you, and have a great school year!!

-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, *family and friends of Trevor Schaeffer, family and friends of Doug Lewis*, Joan Berkheiser, Aiden, Bob Hocker, Mark Ebling, Jonathan Warke, Mabel Edwards, Dick Clauser, Nathan Hibbard, Guy Fessler, Al Herring, Lori Edwards, Ron Mengel

CANCER PATIENTS: Wayne Alward, Boone, Marie Bleu, *Cindy Boyer*, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Yvonne Edling, Glennis Eifert, Joanne Forbes, Meg Goodwin, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperina, 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, AUGUST 25

Sunday, August 25 *Deadline for Confirmation Registration

-Motorcycle ride following worship

Monday, August 26

6:00 & 7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

Wednesday, August 28

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 1 *Return to normal 10:30am Worship Time

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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