



# St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC

## September 2024 Newsletter



### Pastor's Page

Greetings Summer Hill!

Who needs the church?

With all the other activities and commitments that fill up our very busy schedules and lives, who has time for church? Well, it appears that fewer and fewer people feel that they need the church in their lives. Church attendance, membership, and giving has been on a downward trend for decades now, especially among the traditional mainline churches. There have been tons of books and articles written to analyze why this has been occurring and what should or could be done about it. Everything from outdated worship services to the new enlightenment of people has been blamed for the decline, and radically changing age old traditions to preaching new aged messages have been tried to reverse it. But it doesn't seem like anything new has caught on. Why is that?

If you think that I am going to reveal the answer to this huge question, you will be disappointed. I do not have the answers. Many more intelligent and enlightened theologians and scholars than I have failed to identify the core reasons or solutions. However, I can think of a few reasons why people do need the church and should regularly attend. Many of these sound like common sense to those who already make weekly worship part of their regular spiritual practice, but perhaps some of them may give you another reason to consider coming back to church. Here are just some of the reasons:

1. There is power in corporate worship that simply cannot be experienced alone or on-line.
2. Attending provides opportunities to dive deeper into the Word of God.
3. Being with others helps build strong relationships which can provide help and encouragement in times of trouble.
4. Over time, it helps to develop a deeper understanding of faith and self.
5. Provides opportunities to make a positive impact on the world and share your faith with the world.
6. Teaches us ways to connect with God in a personal way.

7. Bringing our children to church is an investment in the next generation.
8. Attending helps regulate our own life rhythms.
9. To practice sabbath, which is rest for the body and soul.
10. To obey God's commands to gather together.

We all know that the church is not a building, but rather all of us, the people who make up the Body of Christ. So, without you the church is not complete. We need each and every one of you to be a part of this faith community. Your spiritual gifts are needed. Your presence is needed. And when you give of your time and gifts, you are guaranteed to receive so much more back through the many blessings God gives.

This fall is the perfect time to recommit and come back and be part of our gathering of the Body of Christ. On Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>, we will begin our fall sessions of Sunday School for all ages 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 8<sup>th</sup> for Rally Day Sunday, if not before!

Rally Day Blessings,

Pastor Ken

## **Regular 10:30am Worship Time Resumes**

The regular Worship time of 10:30am will begin on **Sunday, September 1.**  
(There will be no Sunday School on this day.)

Sunday School will resume on Rally Day, **Sunday, September 8** beginning at 9:15am.

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## **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!

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## **Communion Offerings**

The September Communion offering is designated to support the UCC Disaster Relief Fund.

The October Communion offering is designated to support My Father's House.

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## **Board of Christian Education**

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.** There is something for everyone!

Sunday School will resume this day and continue each Sunday beginning at 9:15am, followed by worship at 10:30am. Confirmation classes will begin on Rally Day **Sunday, September 8** at 9:15am, with a confirmand, parent and mentor meeting.

There will be a blessing of the Sunday School teachers, leaders and the confirmands during our 10:30am worship service on **Sunday, September 8.**

Following our worship service on Rally Day, 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!

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## **Prayer Shawl Committee**

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

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## **Bethany Offering**

On **Sunday, September 15,** we will collect the special offering to support the ministries of Bethany Children's Home. Offering envelopes will be available on the table by the bulletins.

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## **You Are Invited!**

You are invited to a Service of Installation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for Pastor Marie Meeks on **Sunday, September 15** at 2pm. A luncheon will be provided after the service. Please RSVP by September 8 to [Charity\\_Staller@yahoo.com](mailto:Charity_Staller@yahoo.com).

## Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

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 **Mon., 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.

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## Consistory Meeting

The next Consistory Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 17** at 7:00pm.

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## Blood Drive

There will be a Blood Drive sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches on **Thursday, September 19** from 1-6pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven.

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## Motorcycle Ministry

**Sunday, September 22** is “Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday, and a group ride will follow worship that day, and again on **Sunday, October 27**. 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!

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## Spiritual Council Meeting

A Spiritual Council Meeting for all church elders is scheduled for **Monday, September 23** at 7pm in the conference room.

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering

The 5th Sunday offering collected on **Sunday, September 29** will support the Pastor’s Emergency Relief Fund.

## Senior Choir

**The Senior Choir rehearsals have begun** 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.

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## Neighbors in Need Offering

**Sunday, October 6** is World Wide Communion Sunday, and on that day, we will receive the annual Neighbors in Need Offering, the 3rd of 4 special offerings taken for the national church. Two-thirds of this offering goes to support the work of the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries. The remaining third is used to help support the Council of American Indian Ministries and the 20 UCC congregations located on Native American Reservations. Offering envelopes will be available on the table by the bulletins.



**BUILDING** *global* **RESILIENCE**

**Ending Hunger One Step at a Time!**

World Communion Sunday

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1 PM**

Registration begins at 12:30 PM.

The CWS CROP Walk begins and ends at the Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry, 110 W. Market St., Schuylkill Haven, next to the Walk In Art Center

## Budget Committee Meeting

There will be a budget committee meeting to begin planning the 2025 budget on **Tuesday, October 8** beginning at 6pm.

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## Fellowship Time

Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on **Sunday, October 13**. 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!!

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## College Students

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](mailto: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!!

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Your Consistory met on August 20, 2024 and discussed the following items:

Briefly noted the incoming first year confirmands from the Lutheran church and our church

Discussed at length various facility projects for inside and outside the church and how they are in motion or how to approach them in the future. Some of these include:

- Cleaning up the old items/trash behind the bandstand/picnic grove area
- Painting solid doors around church
- Updating dusk to dawn lights around church property

- In preparation of the Boy Scouts having room B2 for their storage space, cleaning up efforts in rooms B1 and B2 (Second Kitchen and Pie Room) by removing items that are no longer in use or may never need
- Move all Scout trophies to their new trophy case in the elevator hallway as well as relocating all other church trophies/awards into the "Hall of Honor"
- Continued progress on the installation of security cameras around church; including new signage regarding 24-hour video surveillance
- Continued progress in wi-fi upgrades to our technological enhancements in the sanctuary

Briefly discussed updates to the church bell motor repair and roof leak near bell tower

Spiritual Council Meeting is planned for September 23rd at 7pm

Budget Committee Meeting is planned for October 8th at 6pm

September Communion offering will support UCC Disaster Relief Fund

October Communion offering will support My Father's House

5th Sunday offering will support Pastor's Emergency Relief

The next Consistory Mtg. will be held on September 17, 2024.

Respectfully yours,  
Trevor Smith, Secretary

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The logo for the Boy Scouts of America, featuring a fleur-de-lis with a blue and red design.

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
HAWK MOUNTAIN COUNCIL  
610-926-3406 HMC-BSA.ORG

With fun and discovery at every turn,  
**Pack 651** makes the most of right now!  
Join us for our **Open House Sun. Sept. 8th**  
St Paul's UCC on Summer Hill Road  
Questions? Call Kevin at 484.824.5403

Scan QR or visit either website to join the adventure today!  
[www.BeAScout.org](http://www.BeAScout.org)

A banner at the bottom of the advertisement showing a silhouette of a mountain range with a tent and a person walking.

## Rite of Baptism

Lilly, Skylar and Wyatt, children of Scott and Stephany Krause were baptized here at St. Paul's on Sunday, August 11, 2024 by Rev. Ken McDowell. They are the grandchildren of Joan and the late Dale Krause, and also Charlene Hauptly.

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## 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.

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## Graduate Recognition Continued (those not highlighted in the July/August)

### High School Graduates

#### Eliza Kline

Eliza, daughter of Jason and Brandi Kline graduated from Blue Mountain High School. She was enrolled in special courses, Voice Class and TV Studio. Eliza was involved in the Blue Mountain Drama Club (musical) and TV Studio/ morning announcements. She was also involved in the American Music Theater's Teen Cast, Artist in Motion and Artist in Motion Summer Musicals, and has won several titles in Dance. This summer Eliza worked as a Camp Counselor at the Salvation Army Camp Tecumseh. Her future plans are to dance professionally.

**Congratulations to all our Graduates!!**

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#### Titus Richard Meck

Titus Richard, son of Josiah and Angela Meck was born on August 3, 2024 at 12:53pm at Lehigh Valley Cedar Crest. He weighed 8 pounds 8 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Titus has three proud siblings: Lily, Isaac and Silas. His proud grandparents are Mark & Lori Moyer and Steven & Sharon Meck.

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## 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.

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## Special Dates

- Labor Day, *September 2, 2024*
  - National Grandparents Day, *September 8, 2024*
  - Patriot Day, *September 11, 2024*
  - Hispanic Heritage Month, *15–Oct. 15, 2024*
  - First day of autumn, *September 22, 2024*
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## Bible Quiz

Who helped Samuel understand that it was the Lord calling him in the night?

- A. his mother, Hannah
- B. Moses
- C. his father, Elkanah
- D. Eli

Answer: D (See 1 Samuel 3:1-10.)

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*"The only thing of importance, when we depart, will be the traces of love we have left behind."*

—Albert Schweitzer

*"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow."*

—Anthony J. D'Angelo



# 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](http://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.

# St Paul's UCC

## YOU'VE BEEN CHALLENGED

### 31 DAYS OF GIVING

# FOOD DRIVE

**31 DAYS, 31 HOUSEHOLDS, 31 FOOD ITEMS**

***THIS LIST IS A GUIDE:** While following the list will make it easier to provide families with similar boxes filled with items covering all three meals in a day and some Thanksgiving Day needs, ANY 31 non-perishable items are GREATLY appreciated!*

1. Box of oatmeal
2. Box Cereal
3. Box Cereal
4. Pancake Mix
5. Pancake syrup
6. Packet or Box of Muffin Mix
7. Peanut butter
8. Jelly
9. Ramen Noodles
10. Can of soup
11. Can of soup
12. Boxed potatoes
13. Boxed potatoes
14. Boxed stuffing
15. Boxed stuffing
16. Can of corn
17. Can of corn
18. Can of green beans
19. Can of green beans
20. Can of peas
21. Can of peas
22. Can of cranberry sauce
23. Box of cornbread mix
24. Box of brownie mix
25. Box of Mac n Cheese
26. Box of Mac n Cheese
27. Box of Pasta
28. Pasta Sauce
29. Can of gravy or Packet of Gravy Mix
30. Bottle of juice
31. Applesauce

**Collection dates October 1 through October 31**  
**All donations due by November 3<sup>rd</sup> so items can be prepared in time to meet family's Thanksgiving needs.**

*Please feel free to drop off your donation at the back of the sanctuary or contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 to schedule a pick-up of your donation from your home. Can't do the shopping yourself? If you make a donation the Guers family will shop for you and send you a copy of the receipt for your donation.*

# KNOWN

BY NAME. FOR A PURPOSE.

YL younglife

**YOUNG LIFE OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY INVITES MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH TO JOIN US FOR WYLDLIFE, A PLACE DESIGNED JUST FOR YOU BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2024!**



aprilbergen@gmail.com | schuylkill.younglife.org



## Joining the Team

### Volunteer Leader

Join a volunteer leadership team. Spend time weekly developing relationships with middle school or high school students.

### Area Committee

Join the community supporters who encourage and love the staff and volunteers, as well as provide leadership in fundraising and ministry development.

### Church Partner Program

Join us as a faith community partner reaching out & building bridges from the community to the church.

### Donor

Partner with Young Life by supporting the ministry with your financial gifts.

### Prayer Support

Join our prayer warriors who diligently pray for the ministry of Young Life and kids. Sign up for the monthly e-mail prayer update.

### Leadership Support Group

Join a team of caregivers that surrounds a particular school's leadership team with support, love and prayer.

“ ... the root of the issues related to contemporary adolescence has to do with leaving this age group to flounder on its own; the answer is relationships with adults who sincerely care. That is the sole need of this abandoned generation.”

– Chap Clark, Ph.D., *Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers*

### Annual Budget \$50,000



The organizational structure of Young Life provides services and supervision through our Service Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. These services include donation receipting, accounting, payroll, personnel, insurance, legal and government reporting.

Young Life is a charter member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) and has maintained that membership through a yearly review of its compliance with the ECFA's standards.

### Giving Plan

# of Partners	Monthly Gift	Total Amount
1	\$500	\$6,000
3	\$250	\$9,000
5	\$100	\$6,000
10	\$75	\$9,000
20	\$50	\$12,000
25	\$25	\$7,500

### Ways to Give

Online at: <https://giving.younglife.org/aprilbergen>



By Mail: Checks may be made payable to Young Life with "PA-115: April Bergen" in the memo line and sent to: Young Life Schuylkill County, PO Box 92, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972



## Thank You!!

-to Joe and Lorna Palerino for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for September

-to Rich Clauser for mowing the church lawn in July and August. We appreciate all your work in keeping the church lawn looking beautiful!

-to our weeding elf for keeping our flower beds beautiful

-to the members who donated Thrivent Choice Dollars in the amount of \$36

-Dear Friends,

With grateful hearts, the Schuylkill Hope Center for Victims of Domestic Violence acknowledges receipt of your \$403 donation.

Last year, the Hope Center assisted over 1,300 individuals impacted by domestic abuse. Your generosity helps to ensure that we can continue offering victims and their families the assistance they need on their paths to safety and independence. We could not do it without you!

Your thoughtfulness to make a difference in the lives of survivors and their families not only improves their overall quality of life but enriches our community. We simply cannot thank you enough for taking this action to help create a more peaceful Schuylkill County.

On behalf of the Hope Center and all those we serve our deepest appreciation for your gift of help, hope, and healing.

Sincerely, Sarah I. Barket,  
Chief Public Affairs Officer

-Dear St. Paul's UCC,

Thank you for your recent donation to Samaritan's Purse. The money was designated to the Israel Project. (Rob O'Brien)

-Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for your gift of \$548 and for choosing to make a difference in the lives of our seniors at Phoebe!

We are grateful that you believe in our mission and support our work to provide compassionate, person-centered care to every resident who calls Phoebe home, and charitable care for those in need.

Because of you, our residents will continue to experience programs and services that improve quality of life, including seasonal celebrations, enriching community life activities, and uplifting spiritual programs.

With gratitude,  
Kristine Paupini,  
Donor Relations Coordinator

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## Christian Symbol



**STEEPLE** — Steeples are a remnant of Gothic church architecture of the Middle Ages, marked by high open spaces and pointed arches that direct attention heavenward. Nowadays a steeple atop a church small or large serves the same function. Typically topped with a cross, it designates a Christian house of worship. Steeples sometimes double as

bell towers, sending out a call to worship high above the surrounding land.

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## September Birthdays

- 1 - Guy J. Fidler
- 2 - Kelly Eckert
  - Connor Rodnick
- 3 - Jeanette Knittle
- 4 - Bradley Krause
  - Augustus Warke
- 5 - Marion Bartolet
- 6 - Bradley Jones
- 7 - Deb Heffner
  - Bonnie Edwards
  - Nathan Elo
  - Caden Moyer
  - Joel Deibert
- 9 - Brandi Kline
  - Cole Frantz
  - Morgan Zimmerman
- 10 - Joe Zimmerman
  - Alexandra Warke
  - Scott Krause
- 11 - Diona Sterner
- 12 - Garrett Guers
- 13 - Chase Guers
- 14 - Sarah Palerino
- 15 - Thomas Toomey

- 17 - Mary Jane Toomey
- 18 - Brook Koch-Guers
  - Kayla Jones
- 20 - Kelly Ulsh
  - Owen Borger
- 21 - Joe Palerino
  - Wayne Krause
- 22 - Michael Reber
- 23 - Christopher Clauser
- 24 - Madison Krause
- 25 - Robert Clauser
- 26 - Samantha Shawver
- 28 - Jahnae Eckert
  - Chaseton Eckert
  - Avery Richards
- 30 - Timothy Barnes III

## September Anniversaries

- 4 - Kermit and Ann Fix
- 5 - Brian and Elsie Strauser
- 6 - Frank and Linda Honyara
  - Ray and Donna Koch
  - Chad and Michelle Edwards
- 7 - John and Mae Halabura
- 9 - Rob and Dana Clauser
  - Brian and Ann Blankenhorn
- 10 - Greg and Donna Brensinger
  - Timothy and Erika Barnes
- 11 - Michael and Sarah Wolfe
- 16 - Corey and Jamie Nabholz
- 17 - Neal and Jill Edwards
  - Adam and Morgan Zimmerman
- 18 - Machel and Dan Itle
- 19 - Jack and Cassandra Hower

## Baptismal Anniversaries

- Lily Grace, daughter of Josiah and Angela Meck
- Isaac Clayton, son of Josiah and Angela Meck
- Macie Marie, daughter of Wade and Diona Sterner
- Avery James, daughter of Kevin and Carolyn Richards

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*“Nature does not hurry,  
yet everything is accomplished.”*

—Lao Tzu

## Lectionary Readings:

### 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

### Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 8

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23  
 Psalm 125  
 Isaiah 35:4-7a  
 Psalm 146  
 James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17  
 Mark 7:24-37

### Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 15

Proverbs 1:20-33  
 Psalm 19  
 Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 116:1-9  
 Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1  
 James 3:1-12  
 Mark 8:27-38

### Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 22

Proverbs 31:10-31  
 Psalm 1  
 Wisdom of Sol 1:16-2:1, 12-22  
 Jeremiah 11:18-20  
 Psalm 54  
 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
 Mark 9:30-37

### Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 29

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22  
 Psalm 124  
 Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
 Psalm 19:7-14  
 James 5:13-20  
 Mark 9:38-50

### Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 6

Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
 Psalm 26  
 Genesis 2:18-24  
 Psalm 8  
 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
 Mark 10:2-16

## **WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP THROUGH ESTATE PLANNING?**

Thank you for your faithful participation in the life of St. Paul's Summer Hill. Your presence, sharing of your time and talents, as well as your generous giving of financial gifts through your tithes and offerings has helped this community of faith continue to thrive and grow while so many congregations are struggling to maintain their ministries.

During this time when many churches are looking to reduce costs by eliminating worship services and ministries, and others are sadly planning on how to close their doors altogether, you have stepped forward now to assure our ministries are able to continue. Whether we gather together for worship inside our building, in our parking lot, the picnic grove or online, we continue to be the body of Christ through our ministries, our witness, and our care for one another.

The Consistory will soon convene this year's Budget Committee to begin drafting the 2025 financial plan which is an expression of our values, priorities and gratitude for God's blessings in our lives. We cannot know what lies ahead of us, but we remain confident in the assurance of God's abiding and steadfast love. Because of your generous and faithful gifts, our church can keep doing what love requires of us by nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries both inside and outside our building walls.

Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the work and missions of our church. Others give proportionally by committing a certain percentage, while others give as they are able. By giving, we worship God and strengthen our community, as every gift blesses others. What is most important is that every member supports our ministries in one way or another, so the Consistory asks that you prayerfully consider how you might contribute.

Many of you have given faithfully to the ministry of St. Paul's for your entire lives and are concerned about the future. You may wonder if our church will have the resources to weather future storms and be here for another 243 years. If you have felt called to do more than just the here and now, you may consider leaving a legacy that would make a difference even long after we are gone. God's future is ripe with possibility and a legacy gift to the church can make a world of difference.

Through the ministry of planned giving, we have a powerful opportunity to ensure that our most sacred values and commitments are part of the legacy we leave behind for future generations. Since planned gifts generally come from the accumulated assets of our lifetime, it is an opportunity to make a final statement of support for a ministry dear to our hearts. Planned giving will also benefit both our present and future members by ensuring that the church will have the resources needed to continue its mission and ministry for many years to come.

Planned giving does not have to be complicated—and it is not only reserved for those with great wealth. It can be as simple as adding a bequest to the church in your will. Please prayerfully consider taking the next step and ask your financial advisor about Estate Planning to learn more about the different planned gifts and their benefits. You may also speak with a member of our Consistory or Pastor Ken for more information.

Blessings to all,

St. Paul's Consistory

**September 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](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)**  
**Website: [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)**

**Address Service Requested**

**Visit the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference –**  
**[www.psec.org](http://www.psec.org)**  
**Visit the United Church of Christ – [www.ucc.org](http://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

**September 2024**