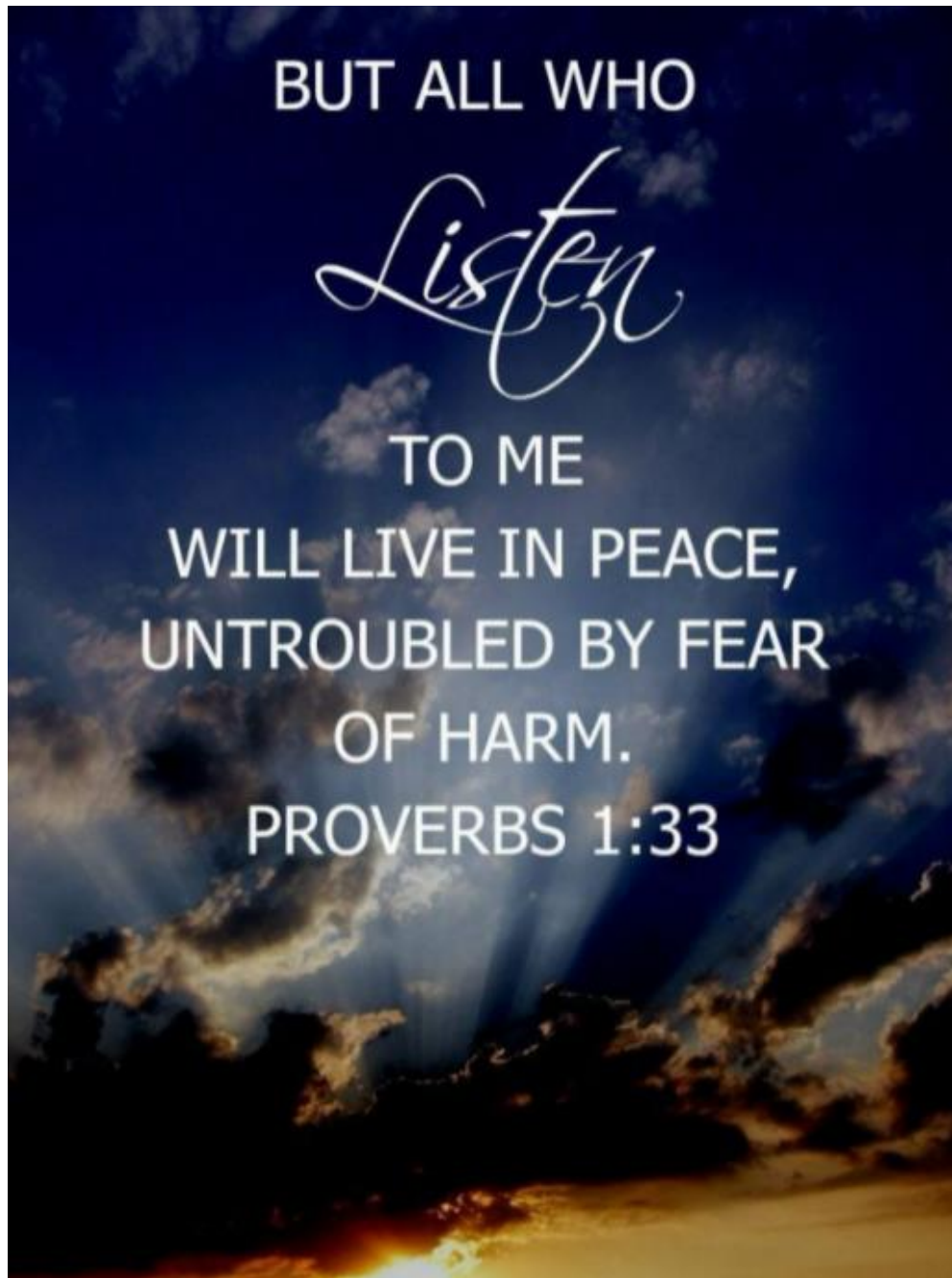


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, September 15, 2024**



**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](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)

**Livestream:** [www.facebook.com/summerhillucc](http://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

1782  
Sunday, September 15, 2024

242 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2024  
10:30am

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Special Bethany Children’s Home Offering

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger  
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Trinity, Shenandoah** 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.

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

*The congregation may stand.*

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Wisdom cries out in the streets.

**People: We hear and struggle to understand.**

Pastor: Come and listen to the words of life and love.

**People: We hear and proclaim our faith in the one who brings life.**

Pastor: Let us worship the God of life and wisdom.

**People: The God whose words guide our life on the right paths. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 31.....“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**O God, we long for you—for your love, for your wisdom, for your grace. We long for the words of your mouth, when we cannot find our own. We long for the courage to speak and sing your blessings. We pray for the wisdom to keep silent, rather than speak words of harm. Forgive us when we turn from You. Be our vision, O God, and our voice. And may our mouths proclaim your praise. 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: Those who listen to the words of wisdom will be secure and live in ease.

**People: We know that our God never ceases to reach out to us, guiding us on the path of life and righteousness.**

Pastor: Rejoice! All who claim our true identity as disciples and beloved sons and daughters of the living God, we have been 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.*

*The congregation may be seated.*

**ENGAGING THE WORD**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector, Nancy Dewald

Old Testament: Proverbs 1:20-33 (Page 547)  
Psalm: Psalm 19 (Read Responsively)

Lector: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**People: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

Lector: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

**People: yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

Lector: which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**People: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**

Lector: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

**People: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

Lector: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**People: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Lector: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**People: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**

Lector: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**People: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

Epistle: James 3:1-12 (Page 1055)  
Gospel: Mark 8:27-38 (Page 875)

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.”

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM.....“All to Jesus” by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Words Do Matter”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

*The congregation may remain seated.*

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 51.....“How Great Thou Art”

*The congregation may stand.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;  
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*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: Go forth with the words of wisdom crying in your ears.

**People: We go forth with songs of hope singing in our hearts.**

Pastor: Know that you are called to be faithful followers of the One who will always be near you,

**People: We will follow Jesus who will guide and encourage us to walk the path of life.**

### BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 344.....“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

### SILENT MEDITATION

### POSTLUDE

\* \* \* \* \*

*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 By Kirsten Linford and the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

*CCLI Copyright License Number 3253621 and CCLI Streaming License Number 20179084.*

-The altar flowers and bulletins are in honor of our grandchildren Shanelle, Miranda, Logan, Gavin, Garrett, Paige, Gaige, and Chase by Ron and Deb Koch.

-Offering on Sunday, September 8, 2024: \$1,828.00

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

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

**-TODAY we will collect the special offering to support the ministries of Bethany Children's Home.** Special envelopes are available on the bulletin table.

**-You are invited to a Service of Installation at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for Pastor Marie Meeks TODAY** at 2pm. Pastor Ken will be participating in the Installation service. A luncheon will be provided after the service. Please **RSVP** to Charity\_Staller@yahoo.com.

**-Sunday School Raffle: Every week that our youth participate in Sunday School, they will get a raffle ticket that will be entered into a drawing for a prize.** Drawings will then happen quarterly at the Youth Group Events. (winners do not need to be present) Prize #1 is an outdoor pack and the winner will be drawn at the Hawk Mountain hike on Sunday, October 13. Please speak to Laura Carll (484-269-4405) for more information.

-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 tomorrow, September 16** at 8:30am and **this Friday, September 20** 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 this Tuesday, September 17 at 7:00pm.**

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

**-Next 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!

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

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

**-The Thanksgiving Food Drive challenge to our congregation is upon us.** It's time to share our blessings by setting a goal of donating 1000 items to the local food pantry. Our local pantries remain in dire need of food. Families across our county struggle each month to meet their food needs let alone provide the traditional Thanksgiving dinner we all enjoy. We have nearly 50 households within our congregation and we are asking 31 of those households to donate 31 food items in 31 days!!!! We will then provide the remaining items to reach our goal of 1000 items. The list provided is a guide to help provide three meals as well as the components of Thanksgiving dinner. However, we understand every household budget is different. So do not feel obligated to conform to this list. **ANY 31 ITEMS WILL MAKE A HUGE IMPACT! Our official collection will take place October 1-31.** So start thinking about your donation now. Shop as you see items on sale, then bring your items to church during the month of October! You may leave your donation at the back of the sanctuary or contact Brook Koch-Guers at 570-449-0825 or by email at [bkochguers@comcast.net](mailto:bkochguers@comcast.net) to arrange for one of the boys to pick up your donation at your home. Come on St Paul’s, **TOGETHER** we can do this and provide families with the **BLESSING** of a Thanksgiving meal!!!

**-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.

-This year’s **CWS Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, October 6** at 1:00pm. Registration begins at 12:30pm at the Council of Churches Food Pantry in Schuylkill Haven. Please contact the church office or Pastor Ken for more information. Please consider walking or financially supporting those that do. Lets help end hunger one step at a time!

**-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, October 8**. 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.

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

**-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!!

**-Summer Hill Youth Group: Youth ages K-12 are invited to join in a hiking adventure at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on Sunday, October 13. (Rain date is October 20)** This is a free event! The group will meet at 1:30pm and enjoy an exciting day of hiking, learning, connecting with nature and making new friends. Youth must be accompanied by a responsible chaperone. Please speak to Laura Carll (484-269-4405) 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 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 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!

**-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.

**-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!!

**-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 Sue Kramer, Elaine Krause*, Todd Yeich, Guy Fessler, Joan Berkheiser, Aiden, Bob Hocker, Mark Ebling, Jonathan Warke, Mabel Edwards, Dick Clauser, Nathan Hibbard, 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, Thomas Galligan, Meg Goodwin, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperna, Holly Koscak, Joan Krause, *Lori Krug*, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, Rich Nickel, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Terri Willard

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**Sunday, September 15**

2:00 PM -Installation of Pastor Meeks at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

5:30 PM -Confirmation Class Meets

**Monday, September 16**

8:30 AM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

**Tuesday, September 17**

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

**Wednesday, September 18**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, September 19**

1:00 – 6:00 PM -C.O.C. Blood Drive at Jerusalem Lutheran

**Friday, September 20**

1:00 PM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

**Sunday, September 22 \*Ride your motorcycle to church Sunday**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

-Motorcycle Ride following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

**\*Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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