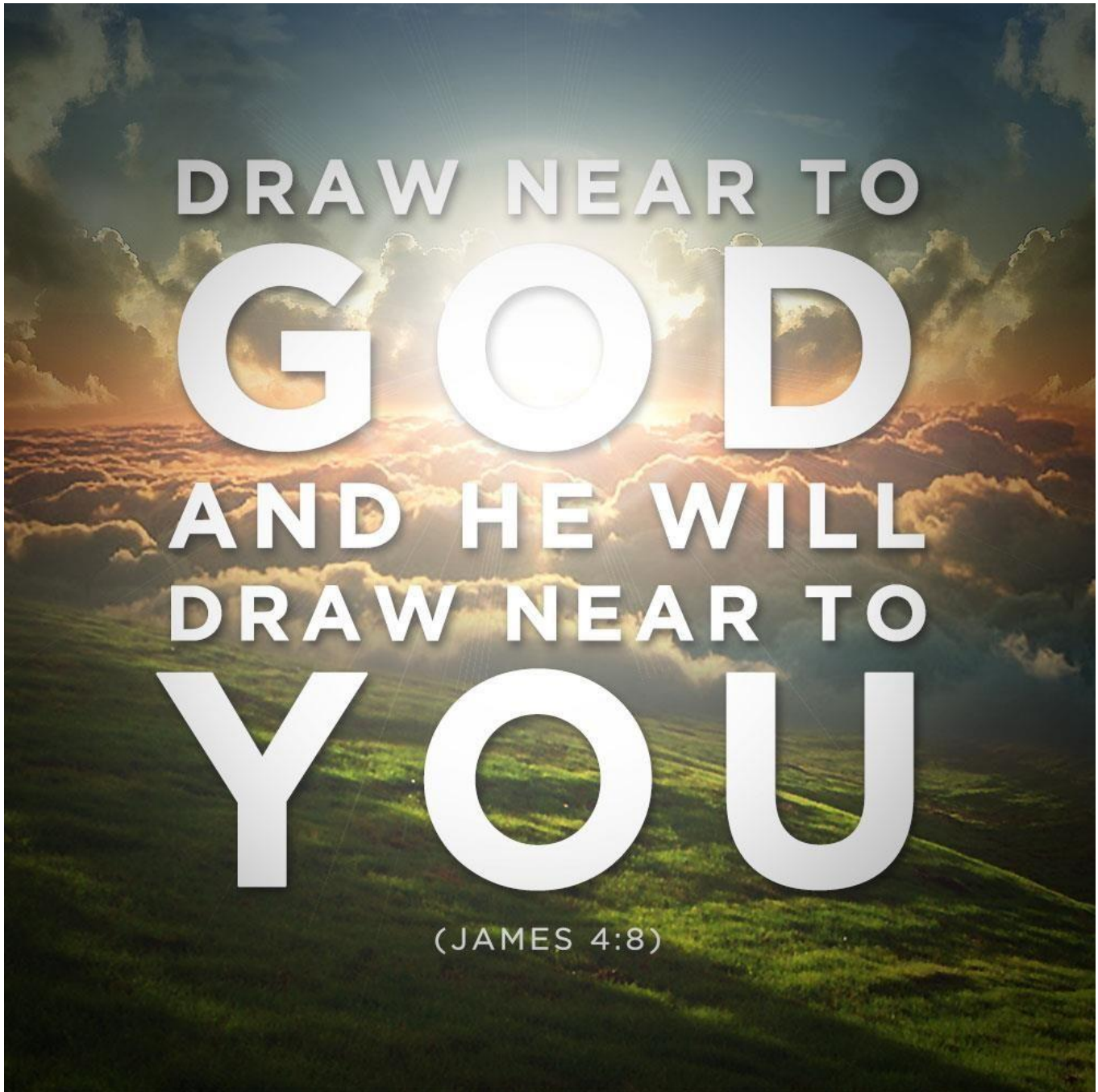


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, September 22, 2024



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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Jacob Challenger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Trinity, Tamaqua** 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: Happy are those who follow paths of righteousness.

People: We take delight in the wisdom of God.

Pastor: Happy are those who reach out to those in need.

People: We find delight in the love of God.

Pastor: Happy are those who set aside envy.

People: We draw delight in the selflessness of God.

Pastor: Come and worship, as we learn more about the wisdom from above. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 657.....“He Has Made Me Glad”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Holy God, you are the Divine Source of Understanding, yet discord rages in the airwaves around us, leading us to challenge your holy wisdom. Confusion swirls within our daily lives, contributing to the discord in our world. Our selfish desires consume our attention, blocking your voice and the needs of others from our view. Forgive our doubt. May your peace still the whirlwind within our minds and help us hear your holy wisdom as we walk our journey of faith. And may kindness spring forth from our tongues, each and every day. 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 wisdom of God beckons to our souls, revealing our world in a different light.

People: In due season, we will yield the fruit of faith in our adventure with God.

Pastor: In God’s mercy and grace, we are again claimed as God’s forgiven children and called into God’s service. 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, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Jeremiah 11:18-20 (Page 660)
Responsive Reading: Psalm 1 (Read Responsively)

Lector: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

People: but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

Lector: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

People: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Lector: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

People: for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Epistle: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (Page 1055)
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37 (Page 877)

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.....“Give Me a Servant’s Heart” by Lura Foster

SERMON.....“Draw Near to God”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 476.....“I Need Thee Every Hour”

The congregation may stand.

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.

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: We are planted by the streams of God's wisdom.
People: We meditate on the desires of God, taking delight in the laws of God.
Pastor: Sink your roots deep into the soil, and draw on God's wisdom.
People: We go forth, knowing God will nourish us every day with insight.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 112....."You Servants of God"

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 Michelle L. Torigian, from the 2021 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 are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. David Reichert & George and Ida Reichert by the family.

-The bulletins are in honor of a Happy Birthday to Christopher Clauser by Mom, Dad, and Amy.

-Offering on Sunday, September 15, 2024: \$2,464.00

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

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

-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.

-A group motorcycle ride will follow worship today at approximately 12 noon.

-A **Spiritual Council Meeting** of church elders will be held **tomorrow, September 23**, 7pm in the conference room.

-The 5th Sunday offering collected next Sunday, September 29 will support the Pastor's Emergency Relief Fund. Special envelopes are by the bulletin basket.

-The **Boy Scout Troop 651 is having a dine out day fundraiser** at the Friedensburg Country Restaurant on **Tuesday, October 1**. Dine out cards are available on the bulletin table.

-Thanksgiving Food Drive challenge: 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 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.

-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, October 14** at 8:30am and **Friday, October 18** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-**The Schuylkill Association Fall Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, October 20** beginning at 3pm in Tamaqua.

-**Sunday, October 27** is "**Bring your motorcycle to church**" Sunday, and a group ride will follow worship that day. 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!

-**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](https://www.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 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 Hermy Morgan, family and friends of Guy Fessler, Sue Terrey,* Elaine Krause, Todd Yeich, Joan Berkheiser, Aiden, Bob Hocker, Mark Ebling, Jonathan Warke, Mabel Edwards, Dick Clauser, Al Herring, 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 22

Sunday, September 22 *Ride your motorcycle to church Sunday

-Motorcycle Ride following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Monday, September 23

5:00 & 7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

7:00 PM - Spiritual Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 24

9:30 AM -Guy Fessler Visitation/ 10:30 AM -Guy Fessler Celebration of Life Service

Wednesday, September 25

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 29

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the 5th Sunday (Pastor Emergency Relief) Offering

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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



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

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/schuylkillhavenpa>



888-CWS-CROP • CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG



DD-0931