

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, September 29, 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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
5th Sunday Pastor’s Emergency Relief Fund Offering

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Trinity, Tower City** 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: It’s a great day to be here.

People: There are so many things we can do to serve the Lord.

Pastor: Just listen for God’s call to you. Let God guide your life.

People: We are willing to open our lives to God’s service.

Pastor: Come, let’s worship and celebrate God’s good news for us.

People: Let us bring our hopes and prayers to God with joy. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 111.....“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of Love and Mercy, we come from a busy week of tasks and obligations. In this quiet time, we have a chance to reflect on how we have lived our lives this week. We have an opportunity to explore the hopes that you have—hopes for compassion for the weak, justice for the mistreated, and love for friends and strangers. We thank and praise you for your love and power. O Lord, we rejoice that you have helped us to be like you; and we regret when we have not been like you. Pick us up where we have fallen. Touch us with your renewing grace, and forgive us by your loving mercy. 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 turns our sorrow into gladness and our times of mourning into celebration.

People: God hears the prayer of faith.

Pastor: Be confident as we pray for one another, for God heals us and forgives us. 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, Brook Koch-Guers

Old Testament: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 (Page 431)
Psalm: Psalm 124 (Read Responsively)

Lector: If it had not been the LORD who was on our side—let Israel now say—
People: if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,
Lector: then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;
People: then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;
Lector: then over us would have gone the raging waters.
People: Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.
Lector: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
People: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Amen.

Epistle: James 5:13-20 (Page 1056)
Gospel: Mark 9:38-50 (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.....“What a Friend” by K. Crane, J. Durksen, P. Truett

SERMON.....“The Power of Community”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 458.....“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Heidelberg Catechism: Questions 1, 31, and 34

Pastor: What is your only comfort in life and death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Pastor: Why is he called Christ, that is, the Anointed One?

All: Because he is ordained by God the Father and anointed by the Holy Spirit to be our ultimate prophet and teacher, who fully reveals to us God’s secret council and will concerning our redemption, and also to be our sole high priest, who has redeemed us by the one sacrifice of his body and ever intercedes for us with the Father, and also to be our eternal king, who governs us by his word and spirit, and defends and sustains us in the redemption he has gained for us.

Pastor: Why do you call Him our Lord?

All: Because, not with gold or silver but with his precious blood, he has redeemed and purchased us body and soul from sin and the power of the devil to be his own.

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: Our help is in the name of God, maker of heaven and earth.

People: Our help leads us forth to bring peace and love to the earth.

Pastor: Our help goes with us to protect us and to guide our way.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 499.....“He Leadeth Me”

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, Worship Elements by Amy B. Hunter 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 mother, Mary Ella Hoy, whose Birthday was September 24.

-The bulletins are in loving memory of Beatrice L. Kreager and Jeanette Krammes by Linda, Dick, Christopher and Amy Clauser.

-Offering on Sunday, September 22, 2024: \$4,307.00

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

-The September Communion offering is designated to support the UCC Disaster Relief Fund. The October Communion offering will support the families affected by the Tremont Fire.

-If you are CPR/AED certified, please contact the church office. We are updating our church certification list for our AED machine on site here at the church.

-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 5th Sunday offering collected TODAY 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 this **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 collection will take place this Tuesday, October 1 through October 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!!!

-Next 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 next 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 on 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 next **Consistory Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, October 15** at 7:00pm.

-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 rides, 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 online!

-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, *Justine (Snipps) Reber, Rick Moyer*, 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 29

Sunday, September 29

Wednesday, October 2

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 6 *World Communion Sunday

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Neighbors in Need special Offering

1:00 PM -Crop Walk (begins and ends at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry; Registration at 12:30pm))

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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

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 3rd 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.