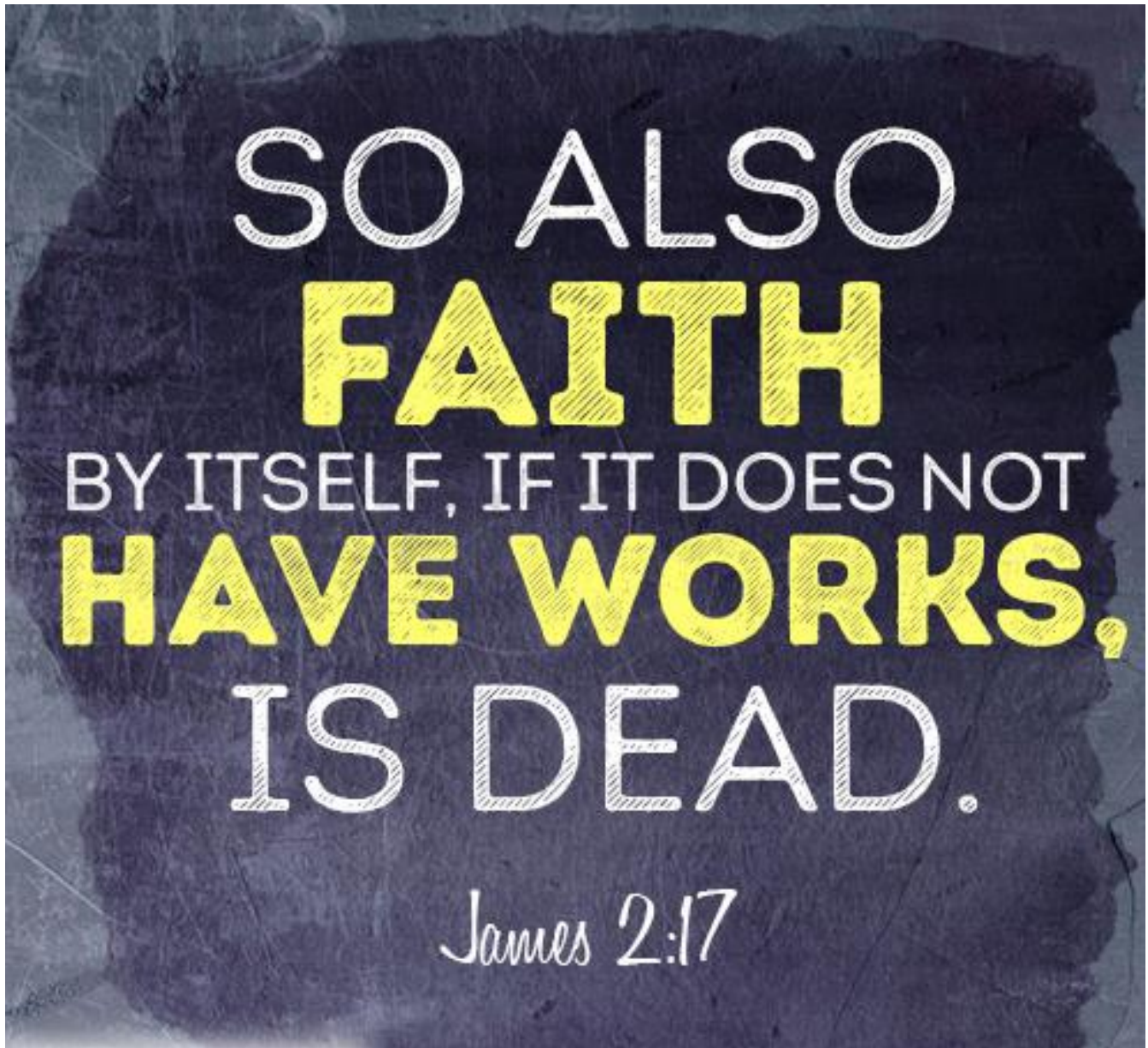


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, September 8, 2024



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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries
The Blessing of Sunday School Teachers & Leaders and Confirmands

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Trinity, Pottsville** 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: Place your trust in God.

People: God's faithfulness is unshakeable.

Pastor: May our worship this day strengthen our faith.

People: May our faithfulness be unshakeable.

Pastor: May our words and actions be good and true.

People: May we grow in godliness each and every day. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 30....."All Things Bright and Beautiful"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Creator God, you create all people in your image. When we neglect the needs of the poor, raise our commitment to care for others and to help create justice for all. When favoritism and prejudice blind us, and when we exclude and demean others, focus us on your inclusive love, a love that welcomes us and calls us to welcome others. Forgive us when we go astray. Live in us and through us, that our lives and our actions may reflect your image in all that we say and in all that we do. 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 good

People: All the time.

Pastor: And all the time,

People: God is good.

Pastor: In God's goodness, we touch goodness.

People: In God's love, we receive love.

Pastor: In God's grace and mercy, we find fellowship with God's people. 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

Epistle: James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 (Page 1054)

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37 (Page 874)

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....."Come, Christians, Join to Sing" by Hal Wright

SERMON....."Practical Advice"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 480....."Open My Eyes, That I May See"

CELEBRATION OF SEPTEMBER 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

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Apostles Creed in the form of a Litany

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS

Pastor: Dear friends, let us recognize those who have responded to the call of God to become workers in the church school. You have recognized God's call in your lives. Will you endeavor to develop your gifts for teaching so as to continue to pass on the Christian faith?

Sunday School Workers: I will.

Pastor: Will you be faithful to the task, taking seriously the commitments of time and talent?

Sunday School Workers: I will.

Pastor: Will you take seriously your role as learner, studying diligently the Scriptures and traditions of the faith?

Sunday School Workers: We have heard God's call to teach and have responded to that call. We teach, trusting in God's promises to support, sustain, and encourage us through gifts sufficient for the task. We teach, relying on prayer and the presence of the Holy Spirit. We teach, inviting others to recognize and respond to God's call in their lives. We teach, depending on this congregation to uphold us in this task.

People: We pledge ourselves to pray for you and for the educational ministry of this congregation. We pledge ourselves to enable, encourage, and love you in this ministry. We pledge ourselves to be learners with you, diligently studying with you the Scriptures and traditions of the faith.

THE CONFIRMATION COVENANT

Invitation:

Covenant:

Pastor: You have registered for Confirmation instruction. Do you promise to pursue this training with patience and earnestness, recognizing your need to grow in faith and understanding of the way of Jesus Christ?

Confirmation Class: I do with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise to come with an open heart and mind to seek the truth as it is found in Holy Scripture.

Confirmation Class: I do with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you participate in all the activities provided including worship, class sessions, Sunday School and special events in the life of the church.

Confirmation Class: I will.

The congregation may stand.

Elder: I now ask parents and sponsors of this Confirmation Class and the members of the congregation: .
If so, please respond with "We do."

Parents, sponsors and congregation: We do.

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 as God’s children.

People: We go as Christ’s hands and feet.

Pastor: Go as God’s faithful followers.

People: We go to live our faith with love in action.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 575.....“Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service”

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 and bulletins are in memory of Bernhard and Janet Michelson by Helen Michelson.

-Offering on Sunday, September 1, 2024: \$2,550.00

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

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

-Following our worship TODAY 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. Even if you are not signed up, you are encouraged to still join us!

-Are you interested in learning more about Scouting?! **You are invited to the Cub Scout Pack 651 Open House TODAY** here at St. Paul’s beginning at 4pm. There are informational cards on the bulletin table in the narthex. You may call Kevin at 484-824-5403.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room. The next meeting will be **this 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.

-Join us for the One Rock, One Community Free Community Music Festival this 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.

-Next Sunday, September 15, 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 next Sunday, September 15 at 2pm. Pastor Ken will be participating in the Installation service. A luncheon will be provided after the service. Please **RSVP by September 8** to Charity_Staller@yahoo.com.

-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.

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

-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.

-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 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!

-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!!

-**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, **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 8

Sunday, September 8 *Rally Day

-Rally Day church wide picnic following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Open House event

Monday, September 9

10:30 AM -Pastor Ken conducts chapel service at Luther Ridge

7:15 PM -Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, September 10

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM -Prayer Shawl Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 11

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 14

11:00 AM – 6:00 PM -One Rock One Community Free Music Festival

Sunday, September 15

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Bethany special offering

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

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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