



St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC

November 2024 Newsletter



Pastor's Page

Greetings Summer Hill!

Have I ever mentioned how much I love the fall season? It is one of my four most favorite seasons of the entire year! There is something almost magical about the transformation nature goes through during autumn. The days get shorter; the nights get cooler. Crops in the fields are ready for harvest, and all the plants in the flower gardens need to be pruned back to grow strong, healthy, and beautiful next spring. And then there are the colors!! Different trees start changing into their fall foliage at various times, providing a fantastic new view to behold almost every day. Oh, did I mention the smells and sounds? Everything is so crisp, and the leaves on the ground crunching underfoot signal that winter is not far behind.

Another reason I love this time of year is that I always get into a very reflective mood as I take account of all that was accomplished over the busy summer months and begin planning for the holidays right around the corner. I start reminiscing about past years and how we used to do so many things differently. I sometimes get all melancholy when I realize that today's culture has changed, and many of my youth's fantastic fall festivals and activities are now just memories of a gone-by era.

And then, right when I begin to feel like nothing will ever be the same and wonder why I should even try, a little voice gives me a kick on the rump and tells me to open up my eyes and see all the beautiful opportunities we do have to create new memories. Every day, we can embrace what God has provided and respond with grateful hearts. It is true that some things we all used to do long ago probably won't be the same in the future, but that certainly does not mean that the future won't be just as fantastic!

We are to expect things to be different, just as “the one seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” (Rev. 21:5, NRSV) That is a promise, not just for a far-off time but also for the hope we can hold onto today. The question is, will we continue to hold on to the things of the past so tightly that we won't be able to grab ahold of the gifts God is trying to give us today?

For over two thousand years, the church has been reaching out to people, inviting them to experience a relationship with their Creator. Through Jesus Christ, we have been taught that our God loves every one of us more than we could ever imagine. During the centuries, congregations have ebbed and flowed with the ever-changing cultures and demographics surrounding them. Traditions have come and gone; some remain, while others are gaining a foothold and will become some of the most beloved memories of future generations. But through all of it, one thing has and will always remain constant...God's Love....

I encourage you to keep the faith even when nothing is the same. Remember that things do not have to be exactly how they used to be because they can be even better in the future. But for that to happen, we need you! Please reflect on how you can participate in the church's life and prayerfully consider what God might call you to do to keep our faith community healthy and vibrant.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time, talents, and treasure to the mission of this church as we reach out with the Good News to neighbors near and far. If you have not been as active as you like, now is a great time to get involved.

Autumn Blessings,

Pastor Ken

Communion Offerings

The November Communion offering will support My Father's House.

The December Communion Offering is designated to Samaritan's Purse.

All Saints' Day and Offering

We will have the All Saints Service of Remembrance on **Sunday, November 3**. That morning during the service of worship and communion, we will honor the saints who passed away in the past year. We will also collect the All Saints Offering, which assists retired pastors from our conference who are in need of financial assistance. Special envelopes are available by the bulletin basket.

PSEC Fall Meeting

The Pennsylvania Conference Fall Meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 9** at Good Shepherd Tuckerton, Reading. Registration opens at 9:00am and the meeting begins promptly at 10:00am.

Fellowship Time

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

Remember to Honor Those Who Served...Veteran's Day Saturday, November 11

Schuylkill Haven Area 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 **Monday, November 11** at 8:30am and **Friday, November 15** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

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, November 12**. 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.

Board of Christian Education

There will be a Board of Christian Education Meeting on **Tuesday, November 12** beginning at 7pm. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Blood Drive

A Blood Drive hosted by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches will be held on **Thursday, November 14** from 1-6pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Schuylkill Haven.

Outdoor Church Clean-up

Mark your calendars! We need your help!! Our outdoor church grounds fall clean-up day will be on **Saturday, November 16** at 9:00am. With enough help, we can have it completed in just a few hours! Bring rakes, tarps, clippers and pruners. Invite your friends and family and neighbors too!

Motorcycle Ministry

With the colder and more unpredictable weather ahead, we will not schedule another group ride on the third Sunday of the month, but that does not mean we are done riding yet! We will keep an eye out for good riding weather and will send out an email when we get a good opportunity to ride. If you are not on our motorcycle riders email distribution list but want to know when we are going, please contact Pastor Ken and provide your email address so that you won't miss any of the fun and fellowship!

Consistory Meeting

The next Consistory Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 19** at 7:00pm.

We are looking for young artists to draw bulletin cover artwork

Children of all ages are invited to take part in the creation of biblically based (either Advent or the biblical account of the Christmas story) worship bulletin cover artwork, which will be used throughout the season of Advent and Christmas. Colorful drawings are encouraged, but we can also use black and white sketches.

Children should print their first and last name somewhere on the front of the drawing. A special recognition of children who participate will take place during the December 22 worship service.

The drawings will be used as bulletin covers beginning on the First Sunday of Advent which is **December 3**. Please either scan and email your child's drawing, or drop them off at the church office by **Sunday, November 24**. Please see Kelly, call or email the church office if you need more information.

Christmas Decorating

We will decorate the church for Advent/Christmas on **Sunday, November 24** following Worship. Help is needed to not only decorate, but to carry the many boxes out of the attic. If you are able, please stay and lend a hand— get in the holiday spirit too!!

Hat, Scarf & Mitten Tree Collection

We will once again be collecting new or gently used hats, gloves and scarves to be given to those in need. All items will need to be received by **Sunday, December 8**, and can be placed on or around the Christmas tree that will be located in the back of the sanctuary on or prior to **Sunday, November 24**. You may also call the church office to drop things at the door. Please speak to Kelly Palerino if you have any questions.

Thanksgiving Eve Joint Worship Service

A joint (with our Lutheran friends) worship service with the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be held on **Wednesday, November 27** at 7:00 pm. The service will be held at St. Paul's Summer Hill Lutheran Church with Pastor Ken delivering the message.

Congregational Meeting

St. Paul's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 1** following Worship (the snow date will be **December 8**). The purpose of the meeting will be to review and vote on the proposed budget for 2025, and to elect new Consistory members. Please plan on attending this very important meeting.

Veterans Coffee Club

Friday, December 6, 2024, 9:00 AM

Geisinger St. Luke's Hospital

100 Paramount Blvd., Orwigsburg PA 17961

866-STLUKES (785-8537)/ mystlukes@sluhn.org

The Commons Ground Coffee Club offers you the opportunity to meet other veterans, share your experiences serving in the military, and learn more about how the Victory for Veterans program can support you.

This event is FREE and open to ALL veterans.

Sunday School Christmas Party

Mark your calendars for Sunday, **December 8th** for our CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY sponsored by the Sunday School. The party will follow our 10:30am worship that day. Hot Dogs and fix'ins will be provided along with drinks and snacks. You are welcome to bring your favorite treat or covered dish to share, but it is not necessary to bring anything other than yourself! Come enjoy the fun as we welcome our special visitor, Santa! Kids will receive a goodie bag. If you have any questions, please speak to any Sunday School teacher or Board of Christian Education Chairperson, Laura Carll. (snow date for the party is **Sunday, December 15**)

Christmas Caroling

St. Paul's Summer Hill will be Christmas Caroling along with St. Paul's Lutheran church on **Sunday, December 8** at 2pm. We will meet in the parking lot here at St. Paul's UCC. All are invited to participate. Please speak to Pastor Ken for more information.

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)

CWS Clean-Up Buckets

Following many natural disasters, Clean-Up Buckets provide those affected with the essentials to begin getting their lives back in order. The Schuylkill Association, working with the UCC Disaster Ministries, helps provide these kits through Church World Services anywhere they are needed, to include right here in Schuylkill County. Our Association currently has over sixty empty five gallon buckets that need to be filled. If you would like to help in this ministry by coordinating the filling of some of the buckets or can donate materials or money to buy the required materials, please contact the church office. Learn more at <https://cwskits.org/>.

CPR/AED Certification

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

The Bulletin and Altar Flower List

The Bulletin and Altar Flower Sponsor List for 2025 will soon be posted in the hallway next to the secretary's office door. If you are already on the list, and would like to make any changes, please do at that time. There are openings for sponsorship throughout the year if you are interested. Please contact the church office if you have any questions about open dates, would like to make any changes, removals or

additions. The sponsorship cost for fresh altar flowers is currently \$35, silk altar flowers are \$12 and bulletins \$10.

Shut-In Mailing Sponsorship 2025

We are very thankful to everyone who faithfully sponsors the shut-in mailings each month. The cost is \$20, which enables us to continue to send bulletins to our shut-in members each month. If you would like to select a month for sponsorship in 2025, please sign the paper which will be posted by the secretary's office door or call the church to have your name added. When paying, please note that it's for the shut-in mailing, along with the month you selected.



Your Consistory met on October 15, 2024 and discussed the following items:

Mentioned the continued efforts of the facility improvements inside the church

Updated on the church bell motor repairs

Discussed at length the proposed 2025 budget

Briefly discussed the offering process during the worship service

Decorating for the Advent/Christmas season will take place after worship November 24

The Congregational Meeting will be on December 1, 2024

November Communion offering will support My Father's House

December Communion offering will support Samaritan's Purse

The next Consistory Mtg. will be held on November 19, 2024.

Respectfully yours,
Trevor Smith,
Secretary

Sunday School

“Give thanks to the lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” - 1 Chronicles 16:34

Looking forward to Christmas- this year we will be helping Schuylkill County Children and Youth. We will be planning on helping 35 families this year. As soon as I get all the information I need, I will post it as soon as I can.

Christian Education Secretary,
Amy Zimmerman

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.

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.

Lectionary Readings:

All Saints Day, November 1

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 3

Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm 146
Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14
Mark 12:28-34

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, November 10

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, November 17

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

Reign of Christ, November 24

2 Samuel; 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

Thanksgiving Day, November 28

Joel 2:21-27
Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Matthew 6:25-33

First Sunday of Advent, December 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

A Letter from the Stewardship Ministry Team

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's Summer Hill United Church of Christ:

Thank you for continuing to faithfully give your time and talent to volunteering. Your past financial contributions enable us once again to fund our salaries, community outreach, mission donations, OCWM to the UCC Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, local church ministries, and the upkeep, repair, and maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

We have all been affected by rising inflation, including the church. Like many of you, the church has reduced spending wherever possible, and the Consistory is diligent about being wise stewards of the resources you entrusted to the church. Many have responded in the past year, and overall, giving has increased, but unfortunately, not enough to meet our increased costs and the need to provide for those in need. If you can, please consider increasing your pledge for next year so that we can continue to provide spiritual support, a welcoming place to worship and grow closer to God, and be the Body of Christ to all in need.

We give generously because, in God's compassion, God has given so generously to us. Through giving to St. Paul's UCC, we can support our beloved community and help spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in Schuylkill County and the world. In addition to financial support, many support St. Paul's UCC through our time and talents. Please volunteer to be on a ministry team or committee, join the choir, worship, or tech team, come to Sunday School, or help at workdays or fellowship gatherings. In addition, giving generously gives us joy, knowing that we have contributed toward bringing the Kingdom of God into this world.

This is the time of year when many churches begin organized stewardship drives to get each member and friend of the church to submit a pledge card. This helps the Consistory in the financial management of the church and serves as a reminder to each of us about the importance of our gifts of tithes and offerings. Although St. Paul's will not contact you directly requesting a pledge card, we encourage you to prayerfully consider the gift you can make and return the card to the attention of the Financial Secretary. No one other than the Financial Secretary will see your pledge and only the aggregate will be shared with the Consistory.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

The Consistory of St. Paul's UCC

----- Cut here and return "For Church Records" to the church, attn: Financial Secretary, ----- and retain "For Your Records."-----

<p>For Church Records Envelop # _____</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>I plan to give \$ _____ each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month <input type="checkbox"/> quarter</p> <p>Beginning _____ for an annual total of \$ _____ <small>(date and year)</small></p> <p>I would like more information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Including the church in my estate planning <input type="checkbox"/> How to set up automatic electronic giving through my bank <input type="checkbox"/> Giving online through Tithe.ly at TINYURL.COM/GIVETOSUMMERHILL <input type="checkbox"/> How to become more involved with the ministries of St. Paul's Summer Hill <p>Signed _____ Date _____</p> <p><small>I understand that this commitment can be changed anytime by giving notice to the Financial Secretary.</small></p>	<p>For Your Records</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>With others in my congregation at St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>I plan to give \$ _____</p> <p>Beginning _____ <small>(date and year)</small></p> <p>Each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month <input type="checkbox"/> quarter</p> <p>For an annual total of: _____</p>
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Thank You!!

-to Brook and Bob Guers and family for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for November

-to our weeding elf who keeps the flower beds around the church looking beautiful!

-to Mike Rubinkam for mowing the church lawn in October. We appreciate all your work in keeping the church lawn looking beautiful!

-Members of St. Paul's,

I wanted to thank you all of you for the outpouring of support and love extended to our family with dad's recent passing. The cards, hugs and prayers have been extremely helpful in getting us through this difficult time.

The Fessler family...Mike, Jackie, Matt and Katie

- 23 - Lorna Palerino
- 24 - Trevor Smith
- 27 - Jonathan Warke
- 29 - Maylee Epler
- 30 - Greg Brensinger



- 8 - Angela and Josiah Meck
- 13 - Eric and Kristy Reber
- 16 - Nancy and Garry Wesner
- 17 - Bob and Brook Guers
- 25 - Amy and Ben Crouse
- 27 - Suzanne and Frank Koperna
- 30 - Rene and Barbara Jucker

Special Dates

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2024
- Daylight saving time ends, November 3, 2024
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2024
- Christ the King Sunday, November 24, 2024
- Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2024

November Baptismal Anniversaries

- Owen Luther, son of Craig and Vicky Borger
- Kiyah Skye, daughter of Justin and Kelly Clauser
- Evan William, son of Craig and Vicky Borger
- Grant Donald, son of Craig and Vicky Borger



- 5 - Kenneth Krammes
 - Jamie Herb
 - Sarah Wolfe
- 6 - Elizabeth Good
- 8 - Joel Phillips
- 10 - Karen Berkheiser
 - Rae Ann Borger
 - Robert Eckert
- 17 - Christine Clauser
- 18 - Heidi Fique
- 19 - Jennifer Delong
 - Milena Krause
- 21 - Nicholas Horvath
- 22 - Neal Edwards

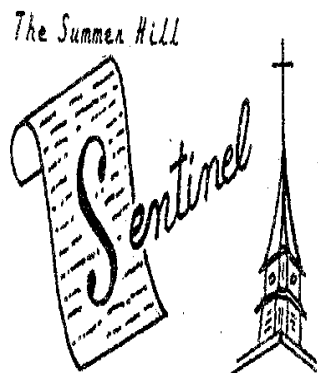
Christian Symbol



ALMOND — In Numbers 17:1-8, God settles a dispute among the Israelites by directing Moses to obtain a staff from each of Israel's 12 tribes and to place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting. The one representing the tribe God chose would sprout. The next day, not only had the staff of Aaron, representing the tribe of Levi, sprouted; it had blossomed and borne ripe almonds. Thus, the almond came to symbolize God's approval. By extension, it also represents the Virgin Mary, who found divine favor and was chosen to bear God's Son.

November 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
Website: www.summerhillucc.com**

Address Service Requested

**Visit the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference –
www.psec.org
Visit the United Church of Christ – 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

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