

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, October 13, 2024**



OH THAT I KNEW  
WHERE I MIGHT  
**FIND HIM,**  
THAT I MIGHT COME  
**TO HIS SEAT!**

— JOB 23:3 —

**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](https://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

1782  
Sunday, October 13, 2024

242 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2024  
10:30am

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger  
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **the Schuylkill Association Fall Meeting (to be held next Sunday, October 20).**

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: Where do we turn when our cries go unanswered?

**People: Where do we turn when we feel forsaken and alone?**

Pastor: We search for God before and behind us, but God is not there.

**People: We search for God above and beneath us, but come away empty.**

Pastor: Yet even now, we will commit ourselves to God.

**People: Even now, we will put our trust in the Lord.**

Pastor: Come! Let us worship. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 84....."O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**O God, You set before us the ways of life and death. Help us keep to your path when the road is hard and the cost seems high. We yearn to touch your perfect love, if only it didn't mean giving up our comfort and our privilege. We long to love you with perfect devotion, but we are loathe to alter our selfish ways. Lift us beyond the empty shells of our shut-up hearts and help us find our way home. For in your love, all things are possible. 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: Who can be saved?

**People: With mortals, it is impossible. But for God, all things are possible.**

Pastor: Nothing is impossible with God, we are his beloved and forgiven children. Thanks be to God! 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

Old Testament: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 (Page 449)  
Psalm: Psalm 22:1-15 (Read Responsively)

Lector: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**People: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.**

Lector: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**People: In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Lector: To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

**People: But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.**

Lector: All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

**People: “Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”**

Lector: Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

**People: On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**

Lector: Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

**People: Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

Lector: they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

**People: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;**

Lector: my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

Epistle: Hebrews 4:12-16 (Page 1046)  
Gospel: Mark 10:17-31 (Page 878)

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.....“Be Strong!” by David Das

SERMON.....“When You Feel Defeated”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*The congregation may remain seated.*

*Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.*

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 500.....“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

*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.**

*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 and follow Jesus on the pathway of love.

**People: We will share the good news of mercy and grace as we go.**

Pastor: Dare to let go. Find the courage and see what adventures God has in store for you.

**People: May we receive the blessing of courage, because with God, nothing is impossible.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 350.....“The Summons”

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 Shelley Cunningham and by Mary Petrina Boyd in the 2021 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu. CCLI Copyright License Number 3253621 and CCLI Streaming License Number 20179084.*

-The altar flowers are in memory of Burr and Eleanor Chase by Helen Michelson.

-The bulletins are in honor of the Birthdays of Tom and Joshua Nagle (Tom's birthday is October 23rd; Josh's birthday is October 2nd).

-Offering on Sunday, October 6, 2024: \$3,409.00

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

**-The October Communion offering will support the families affected by the Tremont Fire. The November Communion offering will support My Fathers House.**

**-Fellowship Time:** Join us **TODAY** for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following worship. 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!!

**-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 **TODAY**. Please speak to Laura Carll (484-269-4405) for more information.

**-Summer Hill Youth Group:** Youth ages K-12 are invited to join in a hiking adventure at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary **TODAY**. (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.

**-You are invited to the American Guild of Organists Reading Chapter Members Recital 22 TODAY** at 3pm. The recital will feature organists from Berks & Schuylkill County. It will be held at St. Mark's UCC, Cressona (parking in the rear of the church). A free will offering will be taken to support students interested in organ instruction.

**-Order forms are on the bulletin table for Christmas poinsettias!!** Flower shops are requesting orders be extra early this year, so **the deadline is Sunday, October 27**. The cost is \$9. Please contact Ardith Moyer or the church office if you need 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, October 14** at 8:30am and **this Friday, October 18** 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, October 15** at 7:00pm.

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

**-Thanksgiving Food Drive challenge now through October 31:** 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!** Shop as you see items on sale, then bring your items to church during the month! 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!!!

**-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, 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!

**-This year we will celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 3.** That morning during the service of worship and communion, we will honor the saints of our congregation 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. You do not need a special envelope, although they will be made available by the bulletin basket closer to the collection date.

**-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.

**-Mark your calendars! We will 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!

**-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://tithely.com) 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!

**-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, *victims of hurricane Milton, victims of Hurricane Helene, family and friends of Alicia Brennan, Cathy Krause*, Cheryl Zimmerman, Justine (Snipps) Reber, Rick Moyer, Sue Terrey, Elaine Krause, Todd Yeich, Joan Berkheiser, 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, OCTOBER 13**

#### **Sunday, October 13**

-Fellowship Hour following worship

1:30 PM -Hike at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

#### **Monday, October 14 \*Indigenous Peoples' Day**

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

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

#### **Tuesday, October 15**

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

#### **Wednesday, October 16**

4:30 PM -Boy Scout Sandwich Sale

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

#### **Friday, October 18**

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

#### **Sunday, October 20**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

3:00 PM -Schuylkill Association Fall Meeting in Tamaqua

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

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

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

Isaiah 53:4-12

Psalm 91:9-16

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45



# **SUNDAY SCHOOL RAFFLE**

**ATTENTION ALL SUNDAY  
SCHOOL YOUTH!**

**Exciting Prizes  
Await You!**

*How do I get tickets?*

Every week you participate in Sunday School, you'll get a raffle ticket that will be into a drawing for a prize! Drawings will happen quarterly at our Youth Group Event!

**PRIZE #1 OUTDOOR  
PRIZE PACK!  
DRAWING  
HAPPENING @  
HAWK MOUNTAIN  
HIKE  
OCTOBER 13TH**

