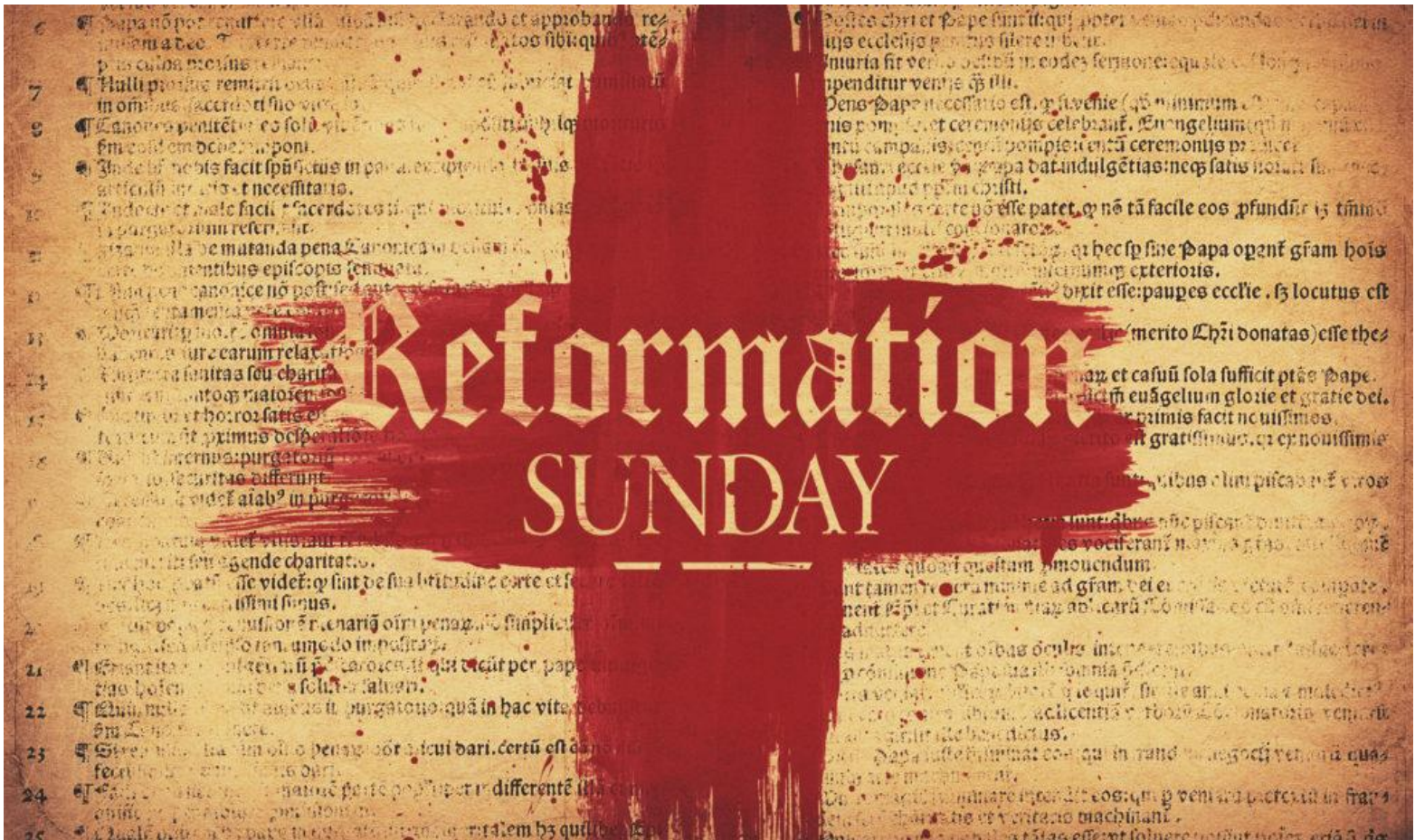


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, October 27, 2024



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

1782
Sunday, October 27, 2024

242 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

2024
10:30am

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday

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, **Reformation Sunday**.

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: Magnify the Lord.

People: Praise God's holy name.

Pastor: The Lord hears the pleas of the perishing.

People: God transforms our suffering into songs of joy.

Pastor: God restores our fortunes when calamity strikes.

People: Bless the Lord and praise God's holy name! Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 507....."A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of quiet mystery, we come looking for a blessing. We long to be counted among the wise, but often find ourselves among the foolish, speaking without knowledge. We yearn to be found among the righteous, but often travel with those who boast without cause. We desire to be instruments of your grace, but often meet genuine pain with empty words. As blind Bartimaeus before us, grant us the courage to cry out in our need, for you are ever drawing near to make us whole. 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: Cry out to Christ, our great High Priest, for he has saved us.

People: Christ intercedes for us, and saves everyone who comes to God in his name.

Pastor: Our faith has made us well, brought us forgiveness, and granted us peace.

People: As we draw near to God through Christ, God will draw near to 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: Job 42:1-6, 10-17 (Page 464)
Psalm: Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22) (Read responsively)

Lector: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Lector: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

People: I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Lector: Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

People: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.

Lector: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

People: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

Lector: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all.

People: He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

Lector: Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

People: The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Epistle: Hebrews 7:23-28 (Page 1047)
Gospel: Mark 10:46-52 (Page 879)

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.....“Praise God Medley” by Dave Williamson

SERMON.....“I Can See Clearly Now”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION.....“Ode to St. Paul’s”

*Rejoice! Ye sons and daughters a glorious day has come
Sing praise to God the Father for St. Paul's sacred home.
Inspired by hearts and shepherd, who toiled to build this shrine
When ruins stilled all voices, they looked to God for time.*

*Praise God for saints who labored to spread His name on earth,
And now rejoice in heaven, believed in Jesus' birth.
Praise God for deeds so glorious; rejoice for God's great love
His grace has kept her members to fill His choirs above.*

*Give thanks, we pray for friendships, Give thanks for vows upheld,
Give thanks for joys and sorrows, Give thanks for strife withheld.
Give thanks for glorious visions, Give thanks for works and deeds.
Give thanks for acts of mercy, Give thanks for perfect peace.*

*Now may St. Paul's be strengthened by pastors, pew and friend.
Keep fires of love-lights burning His kingdom to extend.
The harvest needs more workers of consecrated faith
To hear life's greatest challenge--Be faithful unto death.*

*Not farewell years of glory! Farewell to erring deed.
Farewell to happy memories, Farewell to friends we need.
Not "Farewell," but "Good Morning" when life's last breath is gone,
May loyal souls in glory, Hear God's reward "Well Done."*

*(The words of this hymn were especially written for the Dedication Service
October 23, 1960, by Mrs. Elizabeth B. Messner, who with her husband,
the Rev. Eneas B. Messner, served St. Paul's from 1926 to 1934.)*

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: God heals the broken and makes the wounded whole.

People: We go with peace in our hearts.

Pastor: God finds the lost and gives them a home.

People: We go with joy and thanksgiving.

Pastor: God visits the lonely and makes them family.

People: We go with as the people of God.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 581.....“Called as Partners in Christ’s 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 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 honor of Brock and Pam Koch’s wedding anniversary by the Deb, Ronnie, Brook, Bob, Shanelle, Gavin, Garrett, Gaige, Chase, Miranda, Logan and Paige. (Brock and Pam’s Anniversary is October 30th)

-Offering on Sunday, October 20, 2024: \$2,209.00

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

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

-Poinsettia order forms are on the bulletin table and are due TODAY!! Flower shops are requesting orders be extra early this year. The cost is \$9. Please speak to Ardith Moyer or the church office to place an order.

-TODAY is “Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday, and a group ride will follow worship. Weather permitting, the next ride may take place **Sunday, November 17** following worship.

-The Thanksgiving Food Drive challenge is happening now through October 31 (the drop of deadline is next Sunday, November 3): 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 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!!!

-We will have the All Saints Service of Remembrance next 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.

-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 at 10:00am.

-Fellowship Time: Join us **on Sunday, November 10** 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!!

-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.

-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.

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

-The Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches will be hosting a blood drive at Jerusalem Lutheran Church on **Thursday, November 14** from 1-6pm.

-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!

-The Consistory will meet on Tuesday, November 19 at 7pm.

-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!!

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

-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 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, Marion Bartolet, Laverne Lafferty, victims of hurricane Milton, victims of Hurricane Helene, 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 27

Sunday, October 27 *Reformation Sunday *Ride your motorcycle Sunday *Poinsettia orders due

-Group motorcycle ride

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

Wednesday, October 30

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 3 *Daylight Savings Time Ends; Food donations due for Food Challenge

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with Holy Communion, All Saints Service of Remembrance and the All Saints Offering

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Ruth 1:1-18

Psalm 146

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Psalm 119:1-8

Hebrews 9:11-14

Mark 12:28-34