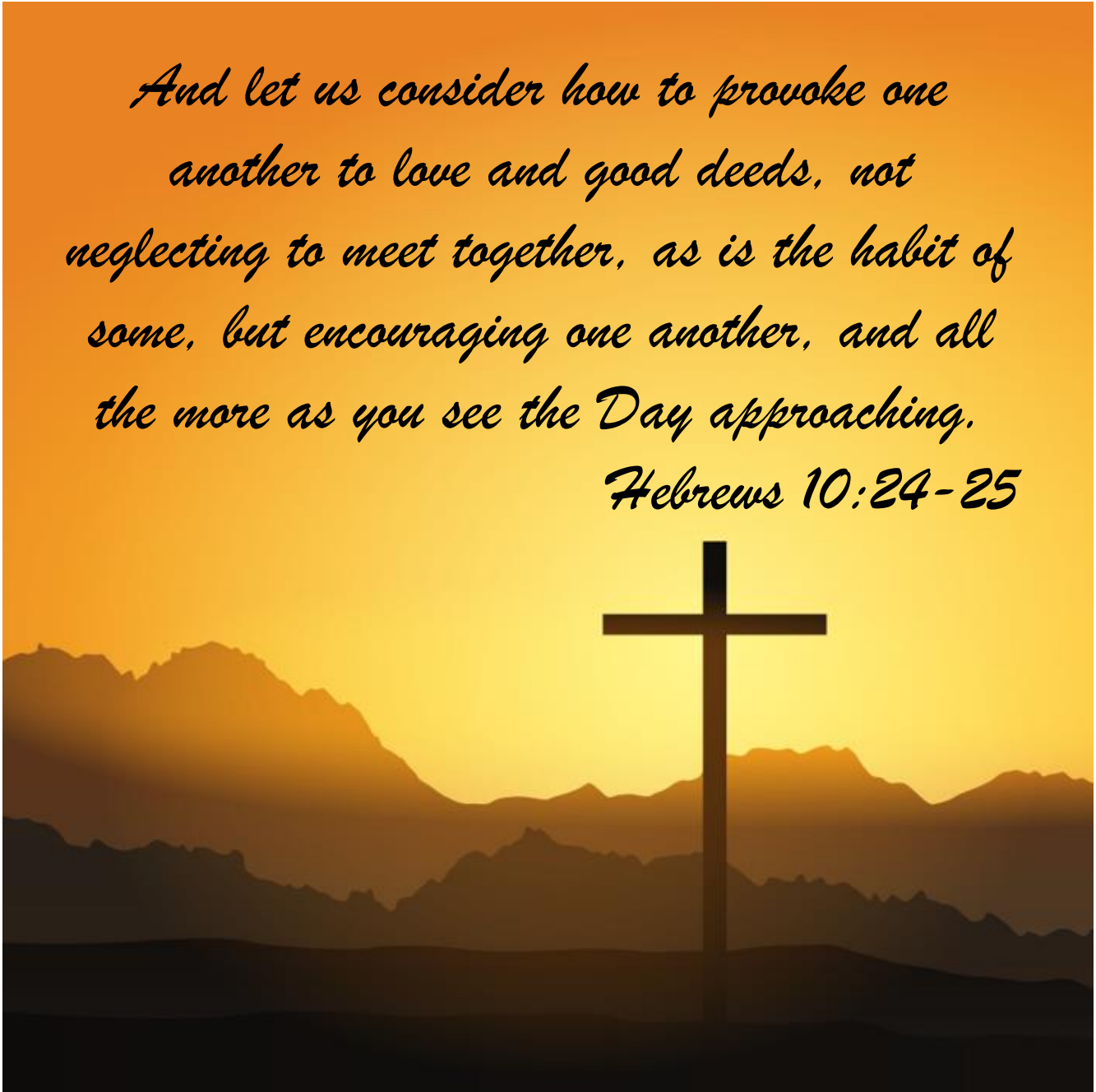


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, November 17, 2024

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25



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

Twenty-Sixth 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 **Christ, Barnesville** 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: We approach the God of grace and glory, who has called us to worship this day.

People: We arrive from the chaos of our world into the clarity of God’s presence.

Pastor: We leave the struggles of our lives to embrace the power of God’s love.

People: May this hour bring us courage and a time to strengthen our faith. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 71.....“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Gracious God, hear the anguish of our hearts. Comfort us when our souls feel barren, shriveled, and lifeless. Strengthen us when we feel lost and alone. Heal us when we hurt and misuse ourselves and others. Guide us into your strong arms of love, that we may receive your gracious mercy and rest in your powerful love. In hope and gratitude, we pray. 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: “I will remember their sins no more,” says the Lord.

People: Our hearts are sprinkled clean and our bodies washed with the water of God’s love.

Pastor: Through the gift of Jesus Christ, God assures us that we are pardoned, forgiven, absolved, and released from our sin.

People: We have been given a new chance to walk in the ways of Christ. 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.....Lector, Mike Rubinkam

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (Page 235)
Psalm: Psalm 16 (Read Responsively)

Lector: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

People: I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

Lector: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

People: Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

Lector: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

People: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

Lector: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

People: I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Lector: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

People: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

Lector: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Epistle: Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 (Page 1049)

Gospel: Mark 13:1-8 (Page 881)

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.....“Beside You” by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Courage to Face a New Day”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 478.....“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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 into the world with hope.
People: We will shine with God's glory and grace.
Pastor: Courageously face the struggles and joys of each day.
People: We will embrace the power of God's love.
Pastor: Go forth in courage and faith.
People: We will bring God's love to the world.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 72....."Great is Thy Faithfulness"

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

* * * * *

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.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

CCLI Copyright License Number 3253621 and CCLI Streaming License Number 20179084.

-The altar flowers are in honor of Bob and Brook Guers Anniversary (November 17) by Deb Koch and family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Marvin and Irene Miller by the Mengel family.

-Offering on Sunday, November 10, 2024: \$3,260.00

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

-The November Communion offering will support My Fathers House. The December Communion Offering is designated to Samaritan's Purse.

-This year the Christian Education Committee has decided to help the Schuylkill County Children and Youth for Christmas. There are 35 children to choose from, of all ages, infant to teenager. The names (along with ages and gift information) are posted on tags on the nursery window in the back of the sanctuary. Please pick a child tag and write your name with the corresponding number on the sign-up sheet. Please wrap the gifts and place them in a garbage bag with the child's tag attached. Place all gifts in the back of the sanctuary. **All gifts are due back to church by Sunday, December 8.** If you have any questions, please speak to Amy Zimmerman.

-The annual gift card fundraiser order forms are available on the table in the Narthex of the church. All orders and money are due by **Sunday, November 24.** Delivery of purchases will be **Sunday, December 8.** Don't forget that you can reload some gift cards online all year long with the profit automatically going to St. Paul's. There are many businesses listed on the order form found around our area with many more to choose from at RaiseRight.com. Any of those choices can be added on a separate sheet and included with your order form. C & C Candies and Country Store and Friedensburg Country Restaurant partner with us each year. Don't forget to shop local! Any questions about this sale, please speak to Rae Ann Borger.

-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 contact the church office if you need more information.

-The Consistory will meet this Tuesday, November 19 at 7pm in the conference room.

-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.

-We will decorate the church for Advent/Christmas next 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!!

-A joint (with our Lutheran friends) Thanksgiving Eve 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.

-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.

-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**)

-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.

-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, December 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.

-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, December 16** at 8:30am and **Friday, December 20** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-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!

-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.

-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/>.

-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!

-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, *Parker Kristoff, Gavin Umberger, Sarah Palerino, Scott Dawson, Caleb Shoener,* Dean Dewald, Penelope Prichard, Pearl Yurenko, Marion Bartolet, victims of hurricane Milton, victims of Hurricane Helene, Cathy Krause, Elaine Krause, Joan Berkheiser, 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 Koperina, Holly Koscak, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Tom Nagle, Rich Nickel, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Terri Willard

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Sunday, November 17

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Monday, November 18

5:00 – 9:15 PM –Boy Scout Meetings

Tuesday, November 12

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, November 20

7:00PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, November 24 *Reign of Christ Sunday *Gift Card orders due

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

-Decorate the church following worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

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