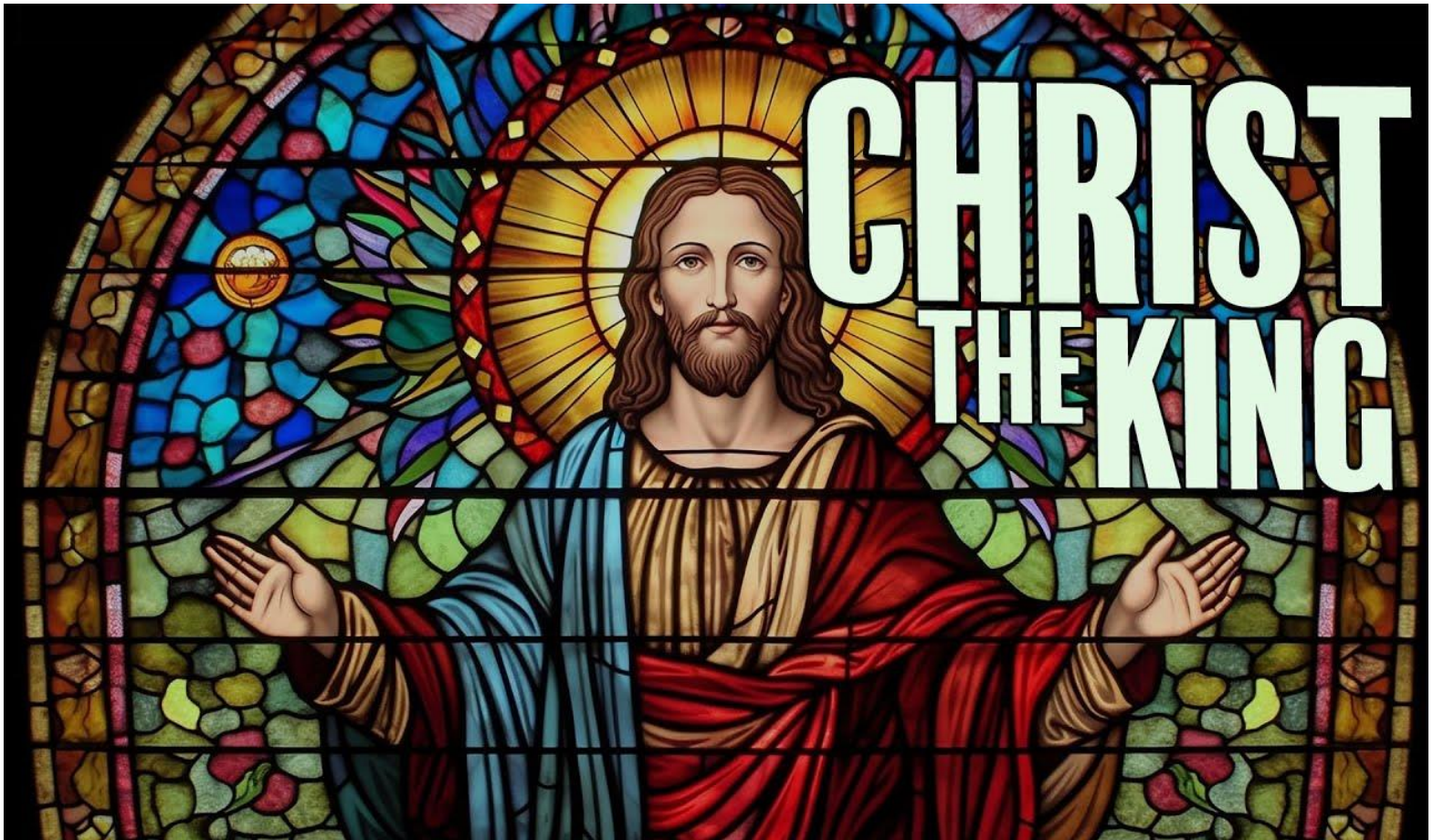


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Sunday, November 24, 2024**



**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](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)  
**Livestream:** [www.facebook.com/summerhillucc](http://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

Reign of Christ

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger  
Organist- Jacob Challenger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Reign of Christ/ Christ (Fountain), Hegins** 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

Pastor: Sovereign God, you clothe your people in the garments of salvation, and you bless them with grace and peace. Open our eyes to the glory of your Son, who comes to rule with justice and reign with righteousness. Open our ears to the sound of his voice, and open our hearts to love as he loves, that we might shine like dew on the grass. and dwell in Christ’s peace. Amen.

Pastor: Let us now prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

*The congregation may stand.*

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: When leaders disappoint and fail us,

**People: turn to Christ, who is always faithful.**

Pastor: When deceitful words appeal to our baser instincts,

**People: hearken to Christ and the clarion call of our better angels.**

Pastor: When charlatans seek our allegiance,

**People: hold fast to Christ, our rightful Lord and King. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 81.....“We Gather Together”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**God of Grace, we feel threatened by forces that seem greater than ourselves. As Pontius Pilate taunted Jesus, daring him to spar over earthly power, we are tempted to lower ourselves to compete and compare with one another. Forgive us when we forget that we belong, above all, to your way and your truth. When we feel inclined to fight or flee, let us instead seek refuge in your wisdom and your grace. Guide us not to react badly, but to respond faithfully. Inspire us to answer insult with creative acts of love. Let us trust not in our own power, but in the strength of your love, which reigns in the heavens and on the earth forevermore. 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 am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord,

**People:** **The one who loves us and frees us from our sin.**

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! 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: 2 Samuel; 23:1-7 (Page 286)

Psalm: Psalm 93 (Read Responsively)

Lector: The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved;

**People: Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.**

Lector: The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.

**People: More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD!**

Lector: Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Epistle: Revelation 1:4b-8 (Page 1072)

Gospel: John 18:33-37 (Page 943)

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.....“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” by Dan McGowan

SERMON.....“I Pledge Allegiance”

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

*The congregation may remain seated.*

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

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 667.....“God Has Spoken by the Prophets”

*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: The Mighty One of Israel is faithful.  
**People: God's promises are sure.**  
Pastor: The rock of our salvation is strong and true.  
**People: Christ's kingdom never ends.**  
Pastor: The Spirit guides and guards us.  
**People: The Spirit's love leads us home.**

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 342.....“Rejoice, the Lord is King”

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 by B. J. Beu from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.*

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-The altar flowers are in loving memory of Harold Wildermuth by his family.

-The bulletins are in honor of Trevor Smith’s birthday (today, November 24) by his parents, Dave and Pauline and his sister, Lauren.

-Offering on Sunday, November 17, 2024: \$2,480.00

-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.**

**-We will decorate the church for Advent/Christmas TODAY 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!!

**-The gift card fundraiser orders and money are due TODAY.** Order forms are on the bulletin table. 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, please speak to Rae Ann Borger.

**-A joint (with our Lutheran friends) Thanksgiving Eve worship service, with the Sacrament of Holy Communion, will be held this 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 next 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.

**-There are still a few names left for the Christian Education Committee’s collection for the Schuylkill County Children and Youth.** 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.

**-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 1. Please either scan and email your child's drawing, or drop them off at the church office. Please contact the church office if you need more information.

**-We are once again 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 is located in the back of the sanctuary. You may also call the church office to drop things at the door. Please speak to Kelly Palerino if you have any questions.

**-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.

**-On Sunday, December 15, we will collect the annual special offering for Bethany Children's Home** which is located in Womelsdorf. Bethany serves troubled youth between the ages 13 and 19.

**-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.

**-The next Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17.**

**-The special UCC Christmas Fund offering will be collected on Sunday, December 22 and on Christmas Eve.** It goes towards providing financial assistance to retired ministers who are struggling financially.

**-We will have two Christmas Eve candlelight services this year, at 7:00 PM and 11:00 PM.** Communion will be celebrated at both services. The 7:00 PM service will be live streamed.

**-The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering on December 29 is designated to the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry.** Envelopes will be available prior to that Sunday, or you can just make a note on any offering envelope.

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

**-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, *Nick Reading, Ken Reber family, Jerry Moyer, family and friends of Terri Willard, family and friends of Dean Dewald, family and friends of Peter Guers, family and friends of Scott Dawson, Harold "Sammy" Marburger,* Parker Kristoff, Gavin Umberger, Sarah Palerino, Scott Dawson, Caleb Shoener, 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, *Karen DiCamillo,* 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, Tom Nagle, Rich Nickel, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Terri Willard

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24**

**Sunday, November 24 \*Reign of Christ/ Christ the King Sunday**

-decorate the church following worship

**Wednesday, November 27**

7:00 PM -Joint Thanksgiving Eve worship at the Lutheran church (Pastor Ken delivers the message)

8:00PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, November 28 \*Thanksgiving Day \*Church offices closed**

**Sunday, December 1 \*First Sunday of Advent**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

-Congregational Meeting following worship

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36