

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, January 12, 2025



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

**Baptism of the Lord
Recognition and Service of Installation
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **all newly baptized Christians.**

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 hear God’s voice.

People: It thunders through creation.

Pastor: God’s voice is strong.

People: It shatters the cedars of Lebanon.

Pastor: God is still speaking.

People: Calling out our names.

Pastor: Listen for God.

People: God calls us beloved. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 241.....“When Jesus Came to Jordan”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Loving God, sometimes life seems overwhelming. There is so much happening that we can’t control. We feel like we are drowning. Then we hear your voice saying, “Don’t fear,” and we remember that your love supports and sustains us. You are there when we feel overwhelmed. You are there when we struggle. You give us what we need. Help us place our trust in you, as we step away from fear, secure in your love. 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: Do not worry, sisters and brothers, God says, “Don’t be afraid.”

People: God calls and names us as God’s own.

Pastor: Then rejoice! 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, Bonnie Reber

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:1-7 (Page 623)

Psalm: Psalm 29 (Page 478)

Lector: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

People: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Lector: The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

People: The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

Lector: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

People: He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

Lector: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

People: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Lector: The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!”

People: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

Lector: May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Epistle: Acts 8:14-17 (Page 955)

Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (Page 891)

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.....“Where the Spirit Is” by Steve Ragsdale and Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Baptized to Serve”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 461.....“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

CELEBRATION OF JANUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Gabriel Donald, son of Benjamin & Amy Crouse

Blake Harrison, son of Andrew and Melissa Reber

Stella Ann, daughter of Andrew and Melissa Reber

Luke Allen, son of Zachary and Alexis Palerino

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.

RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO SERVED

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Greeting:

Pastor: Grace, mercy and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

People: To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.

Recognition of Those Who Serve:

Pastor: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

People: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Pastor: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

People: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Pastor: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

People: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

Pastor: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all parts share its happiness.

People: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Presentation and Covenant:

The congregation may stand.

Elder: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

Declaration:

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: You are each precious in God's sight.

People: We go from this place, claiming our identity as children of God.

Pastor: God has called you by name.

People: We go into the world to answer God's call. Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 719....."Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

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 Mary Petrina Boyd from the 2025 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 and bulletins are in memory of Billy Spotts by Donna, Vicky, Craig, Travis, Alyssa, Owen, Evan and Grant.

-The single red rose is in memory of Billy Spotts by Owen, Evan and Grant.

-Offering on Sunday, January 5, 2025: \$2,517.00

-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2025: \$3,285.91

-The January 2025 Communion Offering is designated to Women in Crisis.

-Join us TODAY following worship for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments. We will gather in the rear of the Sanctuary. 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 tomorrow** at 8:30am and **this Friday, January 17** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-Please have all information for the 2024 Annual Report to the church office by no later than next Sunday, January 19. The Annual Report will be available early in February prior to the **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 23.** Please email your articles to the church office at summerhillucc@gmail.com, or put them in the secretary's mailbox. Please contact Kelly at the church office if you have any questions.

-There will be a meeting of the Consistory on Tuesday, January 21 beginning at 7pm.

-A Cabinet Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, January 26. It will be led by Mike Fessler to discuss a focus and direction for church activities in 2025. All leaders and any church member interested in providing suggestions and input on this topic are encouraged to attend.

-Boy Scout Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, February 2. Members of the Cub Scout Pack 651 and Boy Scout Troop 651 will participate in Worship at 10:30am.

-On February 9, we will honor couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries in 2025. If you are married 50 years, or you know of a couple in the church who is, please contact Kelly at the church office.

-“Souper” Bowl Sunday”: On Sunday, February 9, 2025, we will join thousands of other churches and organizations tackle hunger by collecting canned food and/or cash donations. All donations stay right in Schuylkill County to help our neighbors in need through the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry. Look for the specially marked donation boxes and donation pans when you come to church on “Souper Bowl Sunday”!

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet the second Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon in the conference room. **The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 11.** 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.

-Summer Hill Youth Group wants you to ROLL WITH US! Join us on Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 12:30 to 3:30 PM at the Roller Roost Sports Arena for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Sunday School will pick a raffle winner and cover the cost of admission and skate rentals for children 18 and under. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Laura Carll with any questions.

-As the winter weather is upon us, and the possibility exists for service cancellations, it is important that we have your most up to date phone number and email address for our automated call out system. Please contact the church office to be sure your information is correct.

-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 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, *Jim Reibsane, Joe Maurer, Jeff Palerino,* Ardith Moyer, Ernie Jones, Jacob, Tom Kunkle, Dale Kunkle, Norma Koperna, Donald Rubinkam, Janice Arnold, Ida Wildermuth, Michael Wilson, Nick Reading, Jerry Moyer, Harold "Sammy" Marburger, Parker Kristoff, Gavin Umberger, victims of hurricane Milton, victims of Hurricane Helene

CANCER PATIENTS: 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, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Tom Nagle, Rich Nickel, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

Sunday, January 12

-Fellowship Hour following worship

Monday, January 13

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

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

Wednesday, January 15

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 17

12:00 PM -Help at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry

Sunday, January 19 *Annual Report Information Deadline

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11