

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, January 19, 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

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **Salem, Donaldson** 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: God’s faithful love welcomes us here.

People: Thank God for this glorious gift!

Pastor: God’s faithful love redeems our lives.

People: Thank God for our many blessings!

Pastor: God’s faithful love is ours to share.

People: We will offer this gift to God’s world. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 106.....“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Beloved One, thank you for loving us. Help us sense your steadfast love, even when we feel unsure or unworthy. Help us sense your presence, especially when we feel alone. Forgive us and guide us home when we wander off. Claim us as your delight and your crown of beauty, that we might shine with your love and readily share your gifts with others. 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: You are no longer abandoned, deserted, or defeated.

People: In God’s steadfast love, and through the Spirit’s powerful presence, we are claimed as God’s delight.

Pastor: You are forgiven, and gifted to serve God’s world with love. 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, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-5 (Page 641)

Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10 (Page 483)

Lector: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

People: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.

Lector: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

People: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

Lector: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

People: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (Page 999)

Gospel: John 2:1-11 (Page 923)

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.....“Serve Others” by Kenn Mann and Kyle Hill

SERMON.....“The Gifts of God”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 669.....“Jesus, Come, for We Invite You”

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: As miracles of God, go to be God's miracle for the world.

People: We are blessed with God's gifts.

Pastor: Let's share those gifts with the world.

People: May God transform the world through us.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 595....."They'll Know We Are Christians"

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 by Mary J. Scifres from the 2025 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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- The altar flowers are in loving memory Ellen Louise Clauser by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clauser and family.
- The bulletins are in memory of Ellen Reichert by Christopher and Amy Clauser.
- The additional flower arrangement is in honor of Mathias Nagle's fetal surgery anniversary. On January 19, 2024, our "twice-born" baby was exposed to the world briefly while doctors operated on his spine. The daisy and yellow ribbon are symbols for spina bifida awareness.
- Offering on Sunday, January 12, 2025: \$2,790.00
- Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2025: \$3,285.91
- The January 2025 Communion Offering is designated to Women in Crisis.**
- Please have all information for the 2024 Annual Report to the church office TODAY.** 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 this Tuesday, January 21 beginning at 7pm.**
- A Cabinet Meeting will be held following worship next 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.
- There will be a Service Recording/ Tech Demo after church on Sunday, February 2** for anyone interested in helping stream the worship services and run the tech equipment during church services. The demo will last approximately 30 minutes. Please see Craig Borger for more information.
- On February 9, we will honor couples celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries in 2025.** If you are married 50 years this year, or you know of a couple in the church who is, please contact Kelly at the church office.
- Fellowship Time: Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, February 9, 2025.** 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. We have been having a wonderful response to our monthly fellowship times! **Donations of treats (cookies, brownies, cupcakes, muffins, etc.) are welcome and very much appreciated.** Please speak to Lori Moyer if you would like to help in any way.
- "Souper Bowl of Caring", Sunday, February 9.** Please give \$1 and/or one food item to support the year-round ministry of the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry. Committed volunteers from Council churches gather every Monday morning to sort food at the Food Pantry, located in the basement of the Walk In Art Center,

donating an average of 180 hours of volunteer time each month. On the Monday before the third Friday, they assemble about 200 boxes of food, each box containing 25-30 food items, to give out that Friday from noon to 3 PM. 4500-6000 items of food are needed for each month. In 2024, 1900 boxes were given to our neighbors in the Schuylkill Haven Area. Food distribution is coordinated with Schuylkill Community Action and Helping Harvest Food Bank. Boyer's Food Market is key in providing local food and support. Your donation to the Food Pantry is key to "Serving Those in Need while Serving Christ in Deed." Thank you for loving Christ through our neighbors. **Look for the specially marked donation boxes and donation pots 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.

-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, February 17, 2025 at 8:30am and Friday, February 21, 2025 at 12pm.** Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-We will be collecting monetary donations on Sunday, February 23 to be used toward the Church World Service Blankets+ Program. Blanket offering envelopes will be available by the bulletin basket on the table in the narthex. Blankets+ is a special mission opportunity for all ages. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets+ events, providing funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S.

-The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23 following worship. In the event of worship cancellation, it will be held on Sunday, March 2. Annual reports will be available prior to the meeting.

-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, *Sue Zimmerman, Jeff Palerino, Charlie Heim, Chris Berger, Jim Reibsane, Joe Maurer, Ardith Moyer, Ernie Jones, Jacob, Tom Kunkle, Dale Kunkle, Norma Koperna, Donald Rubinkam*

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 19

Sunday, January 19 *Annual Report Information Deadline

2:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings/ Cake Bake-Off

Tuesday, January 21

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, January 22

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 26

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

-Cabinet Meeting following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meetings

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21



join us!

LET'S ROLL



**Saturday
March 1st
from
12:30-
3:30pm**

**Sunday School will pick a raffle
winner & cover the cost of
admission and skate rentals for
children 18 and under.**

**YOUTH MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A RESPONSIBLE CHAPERONE.
THIS EVENT IS DURING PUBLIC OPEN SKATE.**