

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, February 16, 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
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Sixth 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 Hetzel’s, Pine Grove** 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: Poor or despairing, come to be blessed.

People: Hungry or tired, come to be restored.

Pastor: Sorrowing or sighing, come to discover joy.

People: Bring your tired, your poor.

Pastor: Share your hopes, your dreams.

People: Embrace your doubts, your fears.

Pastor: Come as you are.

People: All are welcome here. Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 67.....“Come, We That Love the Lord”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

God of Mercy, whose presence is ever-living, make us whole. Lay your path before us, for we are easily confused, distracted, blown off course, and lost. In the arid places of our lives—the seasons when our hearts starve and our souls are parched and dry—lead us to your living waters and the nourishment of your ever-flowing streams. Plant us and center us in the core of your mercy, that we might soak up your grace and touch the fullness of your Life, this day and all days. 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: Blessed are you who place your trust in God.

People: For the Holy One is faithful and true.

Pastor: Rejoice, for Christ's love and forgiveness is sufficient for your every need. 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: Jeremiah 17:5-10 (Page 665)

Psalm: Psalm 1 (Page 465)

Lector: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

People: But their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

Lector: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

People: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

Lector: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

People: For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (Page 1001)

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26 (Page 895)

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.....*"Born of Grace"* by Tom Fettke; Pam Clauser, Soloist

SERMON.....*"Fair Weather Friends"*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 414.....*"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"*

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 from this place as those who are blessed.

People: We will live in God's love.

Pastor: Go from this place as trees planted beside living waters.

People: We will drink of Christ's mercy.

Pastor: Go from this place to bear the fruit of righteousness.

People: We will share the Spirit's strength with everyone we meet.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 569....."God of Grace and God of Glory"

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

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-The altar flowers are in honor of Jonathan P. Phillips's 50th Birthday by his family.

-The bulletins are in honor of Katie Fessler's birthday by mom, dad and Matt. (Katie's birthday is Feb. 22nd)

-Offering on Sunday, February 9, 2025: \$3,832.00

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

-The Communion offering for February 2025 will support Church World Service Blanket Drive. The March Communion offering will support the Palisades Fires impacting California.

-The "Souper Bowl of Caring" collection will continue today. If you have not done so already, please give \$1 into our designated soup pot to support the year-round ministry of the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Food Pantry.

-There will be a Tech Team Demo after church TODAY 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.

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

-There will be a **Consistory Meeting this Tuesday, February 18** at 7:00pm in the conference room.

-The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, February 23 following worship. In the event of worship cancellation, it will be held on **Sunday, March 2. The annual report has been emailed out, and printed copies are available on the bulletin table.** Due to the increasing cost of postage, printed copies will only be sent through postal mail by request. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

-PLAY BALL! We have once again scheduled a group outing to see the Reading Fightin' Phils on Saturday, June 14th against the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. Treat dad to a ball game the night before Father's day! First pitch is at 6:45pm. We have moved the seat location for our outing to the "67 Club" along the third base line on field level for even better viewing of the game. Tickets are \$41.00 each and include admission to the game, AYCE Buffet supper (starts at 5pm) and fireworks to follow the game. Children under 4 years old are free. A sign-up sheet is on table as you enter the sanctuary. Payment for tix can be given to Kelly in the church office or paid directly to Mike Fessler. **Please sign up by next Sunday, February 23rd** so we can submit headcount to the Fightin' Phils ticket office to ensure we can guarantee seats in this prime location.

-We will be collecting monetary donations next Sunday, February 23 to be used toward the Church World Service Blankets+ Program. Blanket offering envelopes are available by the bulletin basket.

-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.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the **Board of Christian Education Meeting on Tuesday, March 4** at 7pm. The meeting will take place downstairs in room B1. Please speak to Laura Carll, any Sunday School teachers, Pastor Ken or the church office for more information.

-A traditional **Ash Wednesday Service will be held on Wednesday, March 5** at 7:00pm in person and live-streamed. The service will include the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

-Please remove any arrangements from the cemetery that you want to keep for future use before Sunday, April 6. After that date any outdated or worn arrangements will be removed.

-Beginning Sunday, March 9, Pastor Ken will be leading the Lenten Study, "Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton during the 9:15am Sunday School Hour. In this study, pastor and best selling author Adam Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in Jesus's teachings, why they matter and how they speak to us today. The book will explore Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount, the parables, the "I am" sayings in John and more. The study will take place in the downstairs room B1. There is no cost and all are encouraged and welcome to attend.

-Join us for our monthly fellowship time- conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, March 9. 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.

-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, March 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.

-Wednesday evening Lenten services will begin March 12 and continue through April 9 at 7pm in the sanctuary. Please join us as we journey with Jesus to the cross.

-If you are CPR/AED certified, please contact the church office. We are updating our certification list for the church AED machine. If you would be interested in a certification class, please contact the office.

-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. 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.

-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!

-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, *the family and friends of Michael Rollman, family and friends of John Lehman, family and friends of Ida Wildermuth, family and friends of Carol Kutash, Dick Clauser,* Gaige Guers, Ronald Blue, Nancy Shellhammer, Charlie Heim, Chris Berger, Jim Reibsane, Joe Maurer, Ardith Moyer

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, Nick Reading, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Sunday, February 16

-Tech Team Demo following worship

1:00 – 5:00 PM -Cub Scout Pine Wood Derby

5:30 – 7:00 PM -Confirmation Class

Monday, February 17 *Presidents' Day

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

Tuesday, February 18

7:00 PM -Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, February 19

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 21

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

Saturday, February 22

4:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Boy Scout Banquet

Sunday, February 23

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism and the CWS Blanket Offering

-Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

Luke 6:27-38

