

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, February 9, 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

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries
Celebration of 50th Wedding Anniversaries in 2025
“Souper Bowl of Caring” Offering**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer **St. John ELCA & UCC, Auburn** 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: Great is the grace and glory of God.

People: We give thanks with hearts of joy.

Pastor: Great is the strength and mercy of our creator.

People: We give thanks with hearts of hope.

Pastor: Great is the courage and hope of our Lord.

People: We give thanks with hearts of faith.

Pastor: Great is the mercy and compassion of the Holy One.

People: We give thanks with hearts of love. Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 136.....“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Almighty God, we are a people of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips. We are more accustomed to spreading gossip than we are to singing, “Holy, holy, holy.” Yet, we long to be made new and whole this day. Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us and call us to follow you once more. As the disciples left their fishing boats, may we leave the comfort of familiar shores. Work through us in the power of your Son, that all people might be brought to your glory. 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 be afraid! Christ has called us.

People: Christ has redeemed us, Christ will save us all.

Pastor: Hear the good news, our names have been written in the book of life. We are forgiven. 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

SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN.....“Peter, James and John in a Sailboat”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) (Page 591)
Psalm: Psalm 138 (Read responsively)

Lector: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;
People: I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

Lector: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.
People: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

Lector: They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.
People: For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Lector: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
People: The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Page 1001)
Gospel Lesson: Luke 5:1-11 (Page 893)

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.....“I Will Follow You” by Tom Fettke

SERMON.....“Worthy Before God”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 109.....“O, How I Love Jesus”

CELEBRATION OF 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Brian and Cindy Clauser

CELEBRATION OF FEBRUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

Bryant Lawrence, son of Zachary Bitting and Jessica Borden

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.....Apostles Creed in the form of a Litany

Pastor: And now, let us all affirm our baptisms together using the ancient words of the Apostles creed.

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.

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 voice of God is calling: "Whom shall I send?"

People: We are here to answer God's call.

Pastor: The voice of Christ is calling: "Who will be my faithful disciples?"

People: We are here to answer Christ's call.

Pastor: The voice of Spirit is calling: "Who will be a light to the nations?"

People: We are here. Send us, we pray!

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 559.....“Here I Am, Lord”

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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Portions of today’s worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC’s Book of Worship, and by B. J. Beu from the 2025 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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-The altar flowers are in memory of Mamie and Ernie Phillips by the Earl Phillips Family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Mamie and Ernie Phillips by the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

-Offering on Sunday, February 2, 2025: \$3,048.05

-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.

-Join us for fellowship time TODAY following worship. Enjoy conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments. 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.

-TODAY is “Souper Bowl of Caring”! If you have not done so already, please give \$1 in our designated soup pot 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.

-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this Tuesday, February 11 from 10am-12noon in the conference room. 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.

-There will be a Tech Team Demo after church next Sunday, February 16 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 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.

-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 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 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.

-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.

-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.

-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. 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, *Eliza Kline, those effected by the recent plane crashes, 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 9

Sunday, February 9 *"Souper Bowl of Caring" Collection

-Fellowship time following worship

Tuesday, February 11

10:00 AM -Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

Wednesday, February 12

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, February 16

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

-Tech Team Demo following worship

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

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalms 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26



Lets Go To
**SUMMER
CAMP**

SCAN FOR



CAMP'S
WEBSITE!

**OVERNIGHT
CAMP
SUNDAY-FRIDAY**



At **BEAR CREEK CAMP**

BEAR CREEK CAMP'S OVERNIGHT PROGRAM IS CENTERED ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH, OUTDOOR LIVING, AND SMALL GROUP DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLETED GRADES 1-12.

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND THE CHURCH WILL COVER 75% OF THE COST. THE FAMILY WOULD PAY 25% OF THE COST.

For more information, please contact Laura Carll.