

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday, March 2, 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

**Transfiguration Sunday
The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger
Organist- Colin Andrew

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **Transfiguration Sunday**.

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.

(Communion note: This morning, as some of us are gathered together here at church while many are gathering with us virtually from their homes, we all are invited to the same table. Those present this morning are invited to pick up a bag of individually prepared elements from the table in the narthex, as we will not be distributing the elements during the service. Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)

INVOCATION

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung "Amen"

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Christ has called us here,

People: inviting us to offer praise and prayer.

Pastor: May Christ's presence be revealed in this time,

People: showing us the way to go.

Pastor: May Christ's glory shine into our worship,

People: that Christ's glory may shine in our lives. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 245....."We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Gracious God, we tremble in the presence of your glory and power. Strengthen our courage, that we might look upon your love and stop shrinking away in fear. Embolden us to trust your grace, no matter how grave our transgressions or ashamed our hearts may be. Forgive us and shine upon us with your mercy, that we may shine for all to see. Grant us confidence in both your grace and your abundant love. In your loving name, we pray. 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: By God’s mercy, we are redeemed and renewed to shine with the love of Christ.

People: **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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD:.....Lector, Bonnie Reber

Old Testament: Exodus 34:29-35 (Page 77)

Psalm: Psalm 99 (Page 520)

Lector: The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

People: **The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.**

Lector: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

People: **Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

Lector: Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

People: **Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.**

Lector: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

People: **O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.**

Lector: Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 (Page 1005)

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a) (Page 900)

Lector: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE.....“Let Thy word abide in us, O Lord.”

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM.....“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” by Hal Wright

SERMON.....“Let It Be So”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN NO. 319.....“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Communion Prayer:

The Seraphic Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory, Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

The congregation may be seated.

Words of Institution:

Pastor: Holy are you, and blessed is your child of light, Christ Jesus.....As your covenant people and as reflections of your glory, in union with Christ's love for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer of Consecration:

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.

Breaking of the Bread:

Lifting of the Cup:

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

O God, who in Jesus Christ called us out of darkness into marvelous light, enable us now strengthened by this meal to declare your wonderful deed.

Thank you, O God, for your steadfast love and may we praise you now and forever with heart, mind, soul and strength. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Long ago, Jesus stood upon a mountain, shining with the glory of his mystery and power.

People: A voice from a cloud rang out: “This is my Son, my Chosen. Listen to him.”

Pastor: Listen for the voice of Jesus

People: We will listen and look for his glory, not only upon the mountains, but in our cities and in our homes.

Pastor: See it in your own transformation— from fear to love, from confusion to trust, from despair to hope.

People: We rejoice in the glory of Christ. We delight in one another, and in ourselves. Let us shine, shine, ever more shine!

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 502.....“Be Thou My Vision”

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

* * * * *

Portions of today’s worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC’s Book of Worship, and by Sara Dunning Lambert 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 bulletins are in honor of Jeremiah Nagle’s Birthday (Feb. 24) and Abram Nagle’s Birthday (March 3) by grandparents, Tom and Lucinda Nagle.

-Offering on Sunday, February 23, 2025: \$4,973.00

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

-The March Communion offering will support the Palisades Fires impacting California.

-Please note: During periods of inclement weather, please check the church Facebook page, emails or phone messages for cancellation notices. We will strive to make the decision to cancel church activities as soon as practical and in the best interest of the safety of our members.

-A sign-up sheet is located on the table by the bulletin basket to sign up for a **Heart Association CPR, AED and First Aid Certification Class offered here at the church on Saturday, April 5** from 9am-12 noon. The class will be instructed by John Borchick and should last approximately 3 hours. The cost is \$20 per person, and the certification is good for 2 years. Please speak to the church office for more information.

-Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the **Board of Christian Education Meeting this 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 this 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.

-**Beginning next 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 next 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.

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

-**You’re invited to the Everybody’s Birthday Party on Friday, March 21** from 6-9pm. It will be a pot-luck style, so you may bring a dinner choice and/or a dessert choice. Come for fellowship and fun!!

-**An outdoor grounds clean up will be held on Saturday, March 22** beginning at 8:00am. **ALL HANDS ON DECK** – Children would be great. Please bring gloves, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows.

-**On Sunday, March 30, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering.** OGHS, the refugee, relief and development offering of the UCC, transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. Special envelopes will be placed on the bulletin table prior to that Sunday.

-**The fifth Sunday Offering on Sunday, March 30 is designated to the Pastor’s Emergency Relief Fund.**

-**There will be a Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on Tuesday, April 1** at 7:00pm in room B1. Anyone interested in helping at VBS, which will be held June 17-21, is invited to attend. Please speak to Bill Reber for more information.

-**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.

-There will be a Sunday School Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 13 that will take place during the 9:15am Sunday School hour. **There is a plastic egg donation sign-up sheet on the table by the bulletin basket. PLASTIC EGGS ONLY- please no real eggs.** They may be filled or not, and can be placed in downstairs room B-1 by **Sunday, March 30.**

-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, *family and friends of Yvonne Edling, Alvin Spirko, Brian Moyer,* Dick Clauser, 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, MARCH 2

Sunday, March 2 *Transfiguration Sunday

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

Tuesday, March 4

7:00 PM -Board of Christian Education Meeting

Wednesday, March 5 *Ash Wednesday

5:00 – 6:30 PM -Confirmation Class

7:00 PM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes

-Senior Choir Rehearsal following worship

Sunday, March 9 *First Sunday in Lent *Daylight Savings Time Begins

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Celebration of Baptismal Anniversaries

-Fellowship Hour following worship

4:00 PM -Cub Scout Meeting

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13