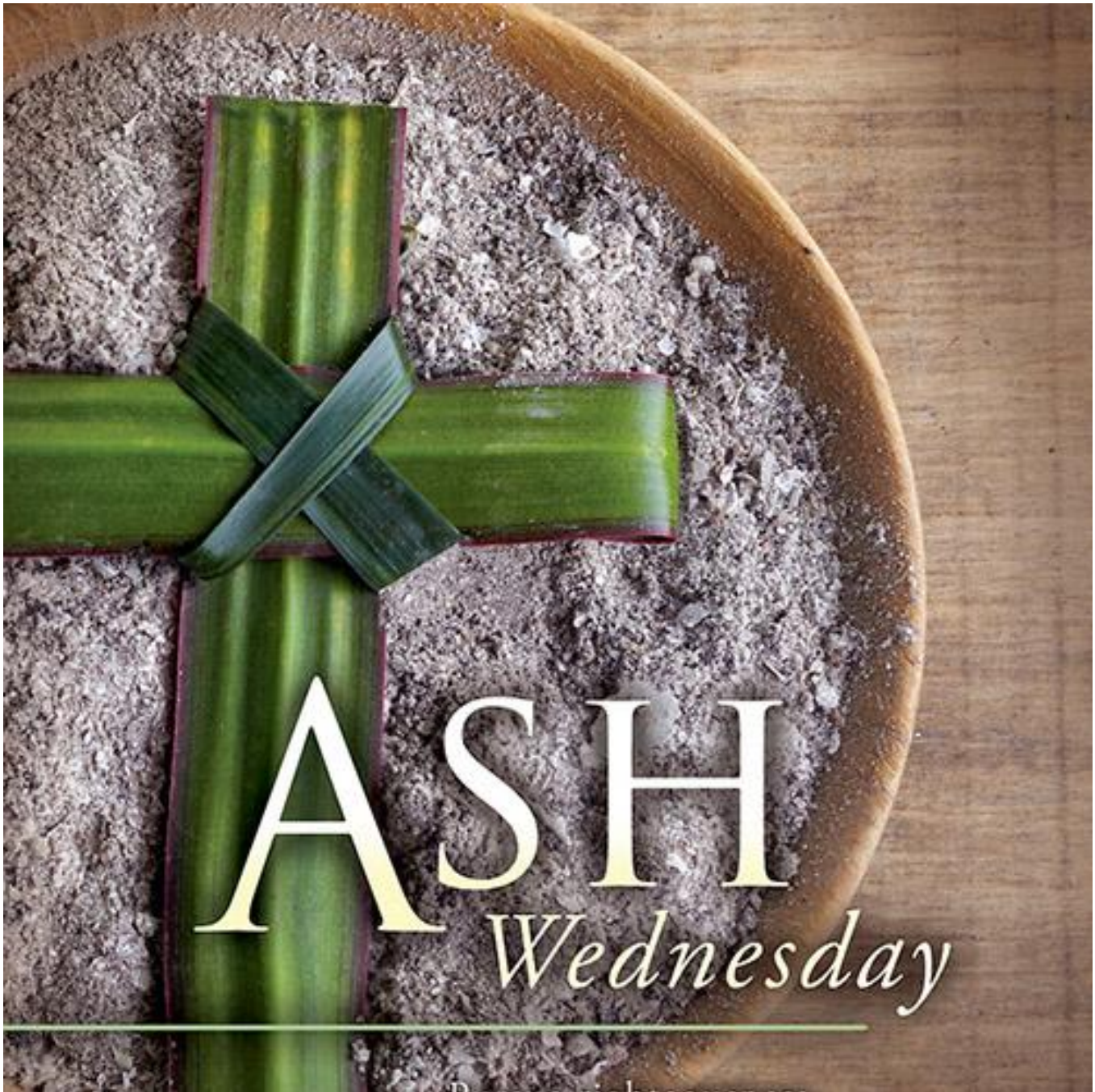


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wednesday, March 5, 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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Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

Ash Wednesday
Sacrament of Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

(Communion note: This evening, 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 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: "Return to me!"

People: Christ calls, and we listen.

Pastor: "Return to me!"

People: Christ calls, and we respond.

Pastor: "Return to me!"

People: Christ calls, and we return to life, to love, to God. Amen.

OPENING HYMN NO. 251....."I Come to the Cross"

SERVICE OF THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Pastor: Let us pray.....We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Pastor: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Pastor: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Pastor: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Pastor: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in our daily life and work,

People: We confess to you, O God.

Pastor: Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: We confess to you, O God.

PRAYER OF REPENTENCE

Pastor: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People: Accept our repentance, O God.

Pastor: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: Accept our repentance, O God.

Pastor: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: Accept our repentance, O God.

Pastor: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

Imposition of Ashes:

(At this time, everyone is invited to come down the center aisle to receive the sign of the cross with the ashes.

Please extend your hand if you prefer to have the ashes placed there. Following your imposition, you may return to your pew by the way of the side aisles and be seated.

The Pastor will come to the pew for anyone unable to come forward.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

People: That we may show forth your glory.

Pastor: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God.....and that at the last we may come to God's eternal joy; through Jesus the Christ.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

ENGAGING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD:.....Lector: Mike Fessler

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (Page 1006)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (Page 839)

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM.....“Create in Me” by Kyle Hill

SERMON.....“The Journey Begins, Again”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

HYMN NO. 483.....“Take Time to Be Holy”

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

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 AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation:

Communion Prayer:

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

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: In this season.....In remembrance of these, your mighty acts on our behalf, we bring our whole selves to you as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: 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.

The Breaking of the Bread:

Lifting of the Cup:

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

The Blessing of the Children:

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Loving God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal and this community of faith, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as forgiven and changed people. Ask much of us, expect much from us and enable and encourage us to touch many lives. Amen.

GOING WITH THE WORD

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor: Go forth into the world in the strength of God’s mercy to live and to serve in newness of life. May Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven, bless and keep you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lamb of God who laid down his life for all, graciously smile upon you.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord God order all your days and deeds in peace.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Amen.

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN NO. 358.....“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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Today’s worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC’s Book of Worship, the Worship Sourcebook, Worship Connection by Nancy Townley, the 2025 Abingdon Worship Annual, and the books, “Communion Services” by Robin Knowles Wallace, “Lenten Services” by Lucy Lind Hogan and “Led by Love” by Lavon Bayler.

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During our Wednesday Lenten services, Pastor Ken will continue to explore the Message of Jesus and how it can help grow our relationship with God, as we travel with Jesus to the cross, and await his resurrection.

The Wednesday Night Lenten Services will be In Person and Live Streamed.