



St. Paul's Summer Hill UCC April 2025 Newsletter



Pastor's Page

Greetings Summer Hill,

In the church, we talk a lot about journeys. The idea of a journey is a great metaphor for how we travel through time, even when we do not physically go anywhere. We are on multiple journeys at once, both individually and collectively as a community of faith.

All journeys have certain things in common. They all have beginnings, steps along the way, and a destination. They differ in how they begin, the number and difficulty of steps, and not all journeys end up at the destination we envisioned when we started. There are different types of journeys, such as physical, spiritual, educational, professional, and so many more....I think you get the point.

During Lent, we are at the intersection of several important journeys. One is our journey following Christ to Jerusalem and the cross, which coincides with our spiritual journey and an introspective search of our hearts for what we believe and how we will respond to Jesus' call to "follow me." Jesus's journey to Jerusalem began when he committed to God's will, was baptized, and spent forty days in the wilderness. Even though Jesus knew the journey would take him through very difficult times and he would be tested physically, emotionally, and spiritually, he was committed to God's will.

Some of our physical journeys will take us to places we do not want to go either. That is when we need to search our hearts to find the same courage that Jesus had. The courage to continue through difficult times and do God's will does not come from us but from our faith in Jesus Christ, who is leading us to eternal life in God's Kingdom.

There are many wonderful, beautiful, and amazing steps along our spiritual journey, but sometimes we feel like we simply cannot go on. We each encounter roadblocks and are forced to take

detours, which take us through dark valleys we wish we could have avoided. However, that is life. We are not the first, nor will we be the last ones to face such challenges.

The questions we must ask ourselves are, "How committed are we to reaching the final destination of God's Kingdom?" or, "Are we actually more committed to simply taking the most enjoyable earthly journey we can find?"

The Apostle Paul said, "We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ." (Ephesians 4:14-15, NRSV)

Are you ready to fully commit to Christ and to do God's will? Are you ready to take up your cross and journey with Christ, no matter what challenges we may face, so that you will one day arrive in God's Kingdom? If you are, a good start would be to take the advice of Stephen Covey's second of his *Seven Habits*, and 'Begin with the End in Mind.' We must have a clear vision of our desired destination and then begin now to pursue that future proactively. Otherwise, we will continue to be tossed to and fro.

As we finish the last few weeks of our Lenten journey, let us draw strength and courage from Jesus to follow him. Start by taking little steps, committed to doing the things your heart knows you must do. Keep focused on Jesus, learn his teachings, and implement those lessons in your life. Become part of the Body of Christ here on earth by becoming active at church, as we all strive to stay on the right path. The journey is hard, but together, we will be able to navigate the uncharted waters ahead, and help each other arrive at the place Jesus has prepared for us, as we also implement God's Kingdom in the here and now.

Lenten Blessings, Pastor Ken

Communion Offerings

The April Communion offering will support the Schuylkill Association General Fund.

The May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries.

VBS Planning Meeting

There will be a Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on **Tuesday, April 1** at 7:00pm in downstairs 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.

Lenten & Easter Season Worship Services

Wednesday evening Lenten services will be held **April 2** and **April 9** at 7pm. Please join us as we journey with Jesus to the cross.

A Palm Sunday Service, with the Blessing of the Palms, the Celebration of the Confirmation Class of 1975 and the Celebration of April Baptismal Anniversaries will be held on **Sunday, April 13** at 10:30am. There will also be a time of fellowship following the service, in the rear of the sanctuary.

On **Maundy Thursday, April 17**, at 6:00pm, we will gather in the fellowship hall for our version of the Seder meal. Seder is a transliteration of the Hebrew סדר, which means 'order' or 'procedure'. The name also expresses the conduct of the meal, all the dishes, the blessings, the prayers, the stories and the songs, written in the Haggadah, a book that determines the order of Passover and tells the story of the Exodus from Egypt. To help in the food preparation, there is a sign-up sheet by the bulletin basket on the table in the narthex. Help is needed to prepare food during the day. If you are able to help, please speak to Pastor Ken.

A Good Friday Tenebrae Service will be held on **April 18** at 7:00pm. Tenebrae is the Latin term for shadows. It is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights to represent the death of Jesus Christ.

Easter Sunday, April 20: We will rejoice and celebrate Christ's resurrection beginning with our Sunrise Service at 6:30am on Easter morning. An Easter Breakfast will be held in the fellowship hall at approximately 7:15am. There is a breakfast sign-up sheet by the bulletin basket on the table in the narthex. Donations of desserts are welcome and appreciated. The breakfast is followed immediately by a worship service with Holy Communion around the breakfast table (8:15am). Sunday School will be held at 9:15am, followed by the 10:30am Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion.

Please join us for one or all our services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday!

CPR/AED/First Aid Certification

There will be 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. A sign-up sheet is located on the table by the bulletin basket, or you may call the church office to sign-up. Please speak to the church office for more information.

Summer Hill Cemetery

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

Schuylkill Haven Area Food Pantry

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, April 7** at 8:30am and **Friday, April 11** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

Prayer Shawl Committee

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, April 8**. 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.

Boy School Troop 651 Dining Day Fundraiser

There will be a Boy Scout Troop 651 Dining Out fundraiser at the Friedensburg Country Restaurant on **Tuesday, April 8** all day. The troop will receive 20% of your total bill. Tickets are available on the bulletin table or by contacting Lorna Palerino.



There will be a Sunday School Egg Hunt on **Palm Sunday, April 13** that will take place during the 9:15am Sunday School hour. There will be goody bags after the egg hunt, so please make sure you get one from Amy Zimmerman.

Fellowship Time

Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on **Palm Sunday, April 13**. 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.

Consistory Meeting

There will be a Consistory Meeting on **Tuesday, April 15** at 7:00pm in the conference room.



St Paul's UCC is having a **YARD SALE!!!**

On **Saturday, May 3**, we will be hosting a Yard Sale for

members of the church and their friends. We will have 12 available spaces in the fellowship hall as well as additional spaces in the parking lot for those who would like an outdoor stand. Spaces will cost \$10 and can be paid to Trevor Smith or the church office. There will be a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex for those who would like to have a stand. Deadline to sign up will be **Sunday, April 27th**.

In addition, we will also be having a small concession stand and bake sale. We are kindly asking for donations of food items and baked goods, as well as volunteers to help in the kitchen. There will be another sign-up sheet in the narthex for donations/volunteers.

Suggested Items Needed for Food/Bake Sale

Hot Dogs
Barbecue
Hot dog/Hamburger Buns
Macaroni and Cheese
Pierogies
Chips
Condiments (ketchup, mustard, relish)
Sauerkraut
Drinks (Bottled Water/Canned Soda)
Baked goods (brownies, cookies, cupcakes, rice krispie treats, etc.)

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact the church office or reach out to Trevor Smith at (570) 789-3701

Board of Christian Education Meeting

Anyone interested in learning more about our Sunday School program is welcome and invited to attend the Board of Christian Education Meeting on **Tuesday, May 6** 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.

Youth Acolytes Needed

We are looking for youth to serve as acolytes on Sunday mornings during the worship services. If your child is interested in helping and would like to learn more, please speak to Laura Carll, Pastor Ken or the church office. Training will be provided.

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)

CWS Clean-Up Buckets

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 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/>.

Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches Blood Drives

The future dates for the Council's blood bank are **May 8, July 17, September 18 and November 13** at Jerusalem Lutheran, 1-6 PM. Please give!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SANDWICH ORDERS

PICKUP: Saturday, May 24, FROM 10 AM until 11 AM
or on Sunday, May 25, after Sunday School or church.

Pickup will be in the fellowship hall.

Orders are due by Sunday May 18.

Orders may be placed at 570-385-5638 or

wareber@comcast.net

\$6.00 EACH

All proceeds benefit Vacation Bible School 2025.

Sandwiches are on a soft ATV roll and include 1/4 lb. chipped ham or 1/4 lb. turkey with 1 slice of American cheese.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE - I WILL PICK UP

ON.....SATURDAY SUNDAY

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

ITEM	QUANTITY
HAM	
TURKEY	

TOTAL DUE: _____

TOTAL PAID: _____



Your Consistory met on March 18, 2025 and discussed the following items:

Discussed the plan to obtain a church credit card

Mentioned a meeting with Pastor Ken and Lisa Minnich that discussed updating our website to be more user friendly and easier to update and maintain

Briefly noted the need to dispose of old/rotten wood and broken benches behind the picnic grove bandstand.

Discussed at length the elevator service tests and inspection. We are looking to various companies and their costs for the best and most reliable service.

Mentioned a plan to have a church Yard/Vendor Sale for May 3, 2025.

Discussed having the Fellowship Hall waxed and polished after not being done in a few years.

April Communion offering will support the Schuylkill Association Ministries

May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries

The next Consistory Mtg. will be held on April 15, 2025.

Respectfully yours,
Trevor Smith, Secretary

Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56
Luke 23:1-49

Maundy Thursday, April 17

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10) 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
I Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday, April 18

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

Holy Saturday, April 19

Job 14:1-14
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16
1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66
John 19:38-42

Easter Sunday, April 20

Acts 10:34-43
Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
I Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18
Luke 24:1-12

Second Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 27

Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Third Sunday of Easter, May 4

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)
Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14
John 21:1-19

Lectionary Readings:

Fifth Sunday in Lent, April 6

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP THROUGH ESTATE PLANNING

Thank you for your faithful participation in the life of St. Paul's Summer Hill. Your presence, time, talents, and generous financial gifts through your tithes and offerings have helped this community of faith continue to grow while so many congregations struggle to survive.

Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the work and missions of our church. Others commit to giving a smaller percentage, while others give as much as they can. We worship God and strengthen our community by giving, as every gift blesses others. What is most important is that every member supports the church in one way or another, so we can continue to be the Body of Christ in our community.

If you have felt called to do more than just give in the here and now, you may consider leaving a legacy that would make a difference even long after we are gone. God's future is ripe with possibility and a legacy gift to the church can make a world of difference. Charitable giving plays a significant role in many people's lives, and the desire to leave a lasting impact on their church community is a heartfelt wish for them. With an estate plan, you can ensure that your legacy continues to benefit the church and our mission for years to come. Here's how.

Bequests in Your Will or Trust: One of the simplest ways to support your church is through a bequest in your will or trust. Simply specify a certain dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to be donated to the church.

Beneficiary Designations: Designate the church as a beneficiary on retirement accounts, life insurance policies, or annuities. These assets can be transferred directly to the church, outside of probate.

Charitable Trusts: Consider establishing a charitable remainder trust or a charitable lead trust. These trusts allow you to provide for your church while also offering tax benefits and potentially providing income during your lifetime.

The Benefits of Faith-Based Giving: Beyond the immediate financial support, there are several additional benefits to including your church in your estate plan that resonate with both your spiritual values and practical considerations. They may include:

1. Tax Advantages
2. Stewardship and Values
3. Impacting Future Generations

As you review your yearly financial plan, please consider how you may continue to support the church in gratitude for all the blessings God has provided to you. Thank you for your support.

Blessings to all,

St. Paul's Consistory

Thank You!!

-to Kathleen Reber for sponsoring the shut-in mailing for April 2025

-to the member for their gift of \$47 on behalf of Thrivent Choice®

April Birthdays

- 1 - Karen Schultz
 - Diane Trout
- 2 - Mabel Edwards
- 4 - Taylor Kerstetter
 - Mitchell McBreen
- 5 - Tanya Elo
- 6 - Samantha Rodnick
- 7 - Laura Carll
- 10 - Bonnie Marshall
 - Mathias Nagle
- 11 - Caroline Carll
- 12 - Helen Michelson
 - Becky Ulsh
 - Lynn Warke
- 13 - Nancy VanDeest
- 14 - Kelly Reber
 - Brantley Wolfe
 - Janet Pagotto
- 15 - Mae Halabura
- 16 - Paul Shealer Sr.
 - Samuel Marra
- 18 - Jordyn Moyer
- 19 - Irene Knorr
 - Gaije Guers
 - Jackson Phillips
- 21 - Ellie Richards
 - Erin Richards
- 22 - Terry Blankenhorn
 - Mike Rubinkam
- 24 - Brian Strauser
- 25 - Lucinda Nagle
- 26 - Kathy Kline
 - Paul Moyer Sr.
- 27 - Jonathan Rodnick
- 28 - Donna Spotts
 - Crystal Lehr
- 29 - Julia Eckert
 - Kylah Ferguson

April Anniversaries

- 3 - Tom and Terri Saunders
- 9 - David and Libby Zimmerman
- 20 - Dr. Daniel and Linsey Nicholas III
- 21 - Richard and Debbie Clauser
- 22 - Daniel and Tanya Elo
- 23 - Kevin and Laureen Carpenter
- 25 - Craig and Victoria Borger
 - Rev. Ken and Ann McDowell

April Baptismal Anniversaries

- Ella Sophia, daughter of Wade and Diona Sterner
-

Special Dates

- Holy Week, *April 13-20, 2025*
 - Palm/Passion Sunday, *April 13, 2025*
 - Maundy Thursday, *April 17, 2025*
 - Good Friday, *April 18, 2025*
 - Easter Sunday, *April 20, 2025*
 - Administrative Professionals Day, *April 23*
-



Christian Symbol

PALM BRANCH — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.

Bible Quiz

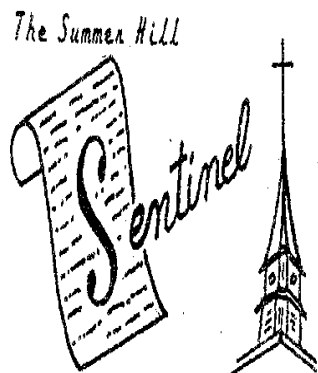
From the cross, Jesus prayed words from the book of Psalms. What were they?

- A. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- B. "I thirst!"
- C. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- D. "It is finished!"

Answer: A (See Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34; and Psalm 22:1.)

April 2025

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
1235 Summer Hill Road
Auburn, PA 17922**



Church Phone: 570-754-7225

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor: 610-207-4783

Office Hours: Tues.– Friday 9am - 2pm

Email: summerhillucc@gmail.com

Website: www.summerhillucc.com

Address Service Requested

Visit the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference –

www.psec.org

Visit the United Church of Christ – www.ucc.org

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell

Church Administrator & Custodian: Kelly
Palerino

Music Director/ Pianist: Rae Ann Borger

Organists: Jacob Challenger/ Colin Andrew
(Supply)

Church Leadership

Consistory President: Pam Clauser

Consistory Vice President: Jeff Palerino

Consistory Secretary: Trevor Smith

Consistory Assistant Secretary: Terri Saunders

Treasurer: Lori Moyer

Financial Secretary: Kathy Kline

Consistory Elders: Pam Clauser, Robin Ferguson
and Jeff Palerino

Consistory Trustees: Mike Reber, Clint Clauser
and Kelly Palerino

Stewardship/Mission- Deacons of Consistory:

Kathy Kline, Carol Mengel, Trevor Smith,
Lori Moyer, Tom and Terri Saunders

Board of Christian Education Chairperson &

Summer Hill Youth Group: Laura Carl

Board of Christian Education Vice-

Chairperson: Vicky Borger

Board of Christian Education Secretary:

Amy Zimmerman

Sunday Morning Coordinator: Trevor Smith

Assistant Sunday Coordinator: David Deibert

Budget Committee: Pam Clauser

Personnel Committee: Lori Moyer

Prayer Shawl Ministry Chair: Nancy Dewald

Altar Committee Chairperson: Kelly Palerino

April 2025