

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025
10:30am Worship Service



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922
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Church Office Phone: 570-754-7225
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**Easter Sunday
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
St. Paul's Minstrels**

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, **the resurrection of our Savior.**

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 will be served communion elements in the pews. 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 the Lord is risen today.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor: Earth and heaven in chorus say:

People: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor: Love's redeeming work is done.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor: Christ has opened paradise.

People: Alleluia! Alleluia!

OPENING HYMN NO. 288....."Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

Come, O God, and bring new life to the dead places in our hearts. When are weary and afraid, help us trust your never-failing love. May this love banish our fears, nourish our spirits, and deepen our joy. 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: God’s love is faithful and everlasting. This is the day that God has made.

People: It is filled with new life and hope.

Pastor: In the name of the risen Christ, you are forgiven! Glory 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, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Isaiah 65:17-25 (Page 644)

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (**Read responsively**)

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

People: Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”

Lector: The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

People: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

Lector: the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

People: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

Lector: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

People: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

Lector: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

People: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Lector: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Lector: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1-18 (Page 944)

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.....“Christ Has Conquered the Grave”
Words and Music by Jennifer Martin, Arranged by Bruce Greer

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may stand.

HYMN NO. 294.....“Christ Arose!”

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

Pastor: God is good.

People: God's faithful love endures forever!

Pastor: God is our strength and protection.

People: God's gracious joy brightens our lives!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God through our gifts!

People: We will rejoice and share God's bounty!

OFFERTORY.....Selections by the Minstrels

(At this time the Regular, Communion and Easter Offerings will be received.)

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: We remember the life and ministry of Jesus: how he healed the sick, fed the hungry, ate with sinners, and
preached forgiveness and peace. It was at this table that he issued the invitation: to gather together, to
share together, to remember together, and to go and do likewise in the world. We remember that Jesus
took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to his disciples.

People: His bread is life to us.

Pastor: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his followers.

People: His cup is strength and hope to us.

Pastor: And so, on this day of resurrection, we raise our voices to proclaim this timeless truth:

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):

Pastor: God is good!

People: All the time!

Pastor: And all the time!

People: God is good!

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good. God's love endures forever. Let all people shout it from the rooftops, "God's love endures forever!"

People: God's love endures forever! Amen!

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: We have heard the story.

People: Life triumphed over death and grief became joy.

Pastor: Go now and tell the good news:

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN NO. 302....."He Lives"

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 Mary Petrina Boyd 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 Caroline Wildermuth (who was born on Easter Sunday) by her family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Caroline Wildermuth by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

-Offering on Sunday, April 13, 2025: \$2,907.00

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

-The April Communion offering supports the Schuylkill Association General Fund. The May Communion offering will support Phoebe Ministries.

-It's soon mowing season! Volunteers are needed to mow the church lawn- a zero turn mower is provided. A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex. Please contact the church office for more information.

-St Paul's UCC is having a YARD SALE on Saturday, May 3 from 8am to 1pm. There will be indoor and outdoor spaces available for members of the church and their friends. Spaces cost \$10 and can be paid to Trevor Smith or the church office. 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. Sign-up sheets are located in the narthex for vendors as well as food donations/volunteers. Flyers are available for advertisement. The deadline to sign up is next **Sunday, April 27th**. On **Friday, May 2**, the church will be open from **9am to 1pm** and **3pm to 7pm** for those that have an indoor space to set up their items. Food and bake sale items can also be dropped off during those hours. On Saturday, the church will open at 6:30am for outdoor setup and food preparations.

-The 2025 Spring Meeting of the Schuylkill Association of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ will gather Sunday, May 4 at 3pm at First United Church of Christ, 110 Route 61 South, Schuylkill Haven. Registration will begin at 2:30pm.

-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.

-There will be a Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches blood drive on Thursday, May 8 at Jerusalem Lutheran, Schuylkill Haven from 1-6 PM. Please give!

-On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, we will receive our annual offering for Phoebe Ministries. This ministry provides long-term care and programs for seniors.

-Join us for conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments following our 10:30am worship service on Sunday, May 11. 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.)

-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, May 12** at 8:30am and **Friday, May 16** at 12pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling, Bill Reber or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

-The **Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday, May 13** from 10am-12noon in the conference room. **They will take a summer break in June, July and August, and begin meeting the second Tuesday of the month again in September.** If you are interested in knitting and/or crocheting, we can hook you up! Please speak to Nancy Dewald for more information. If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

-The Sunday School is holding a sandwich sale with pick up on Saturday, May 24 or Sunday, May 25 to support VBS 2025. Order forms are included in the newsletter and on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$6 each and **orders are due by Sunday, May 18**. Thank you for your support!

-We have again designated the third Sunday of the month as “Bring your motorcycle to church” Sunday. The upcoming dates are May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17 and September 21. We will have a Blessing of the Bikes on our first ride in May. Spread the word, invite your friend, and join us for some fun and fellowship. If you would like to be notified of other rides throughout the summer, please notify the church office to have your name added to the “Biker” email list!

-Join us for a Service of Remembrance at the Veterans Memorial next to the Summer Hill Cemetery on Sunday, May 25 at 10:00am. We will join together with our neighbors from the St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. This is a wonderful and very meaningful way to begin our holiday week, and start off summer on the right note. Children are more than welcome to bring flowers to lay at the memorial.

-Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School (“True North- Trusting Jesus in a Wild World”) which will be held here at St. Paul's **June 16-20** from 6-8:30pm each day. Please save the date and share with all your relatives, friends and neighbors. Please speak to Bill Reber at 570-754-7225. **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

-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 AND also a prayer phone call chain for anyone interested.** Please contact the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God’s help in difficult times, Military personnel & National leaders, *Anna Mae Minchoff, family and friends of Allen Herring, Shirley Williamson, Mary Maurer, Alex Krammes and twins,* Terri Snyder, Kenneth Smith, Roxann and Kevin Sweigert, Aiden Rodriguez, Margot Evans Carey, Brian Moyer, Ardith Moyer

CANCER PATIENTS: Marie Bleu, Cindy Boyer, Karen DiCamillo, Deb Dimitri, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Joanne Forbes, Thomas Galligan, Meg Goodwin, Rebecca Henderson, Lisa Hoynoski, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Joan Krause, Lori Krug, Carol Mallory, Tara Moss, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Nick Reading, Pat Reading, Jen Semenco, Jim Thompson

FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, April 20

Sunday, April 20 *Easter Sunday

Monday, April 21

6:00 – 9:00 PM -Boy Scout Meetings

Wednesday, April 23

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 25 *Pastor Ken & Ann's Anniversary!!

Sunday, April 27 *Deadline to sign-up for the church yard sale

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship

1:00 – 7:00 PM -Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony (Sanctuary) and Meal (Fellowship Hall)

***Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 118:14-29

Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

***Happy Easter! Christ has risen!
He has risen indeed!***