



# **St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*A welcoming Christ-centered community...*

## **We're Glad You're Here!**

**Welcome:** *St. Paul's creates experiences of joyful fellowship where children, youth, adults, and the elderly build open and honest relationships of mutual support. In welcoming the ongoing transformative power of the Holy Spirit, we find freedom from social stigmas and shame. This in turn empowers us to address isolation and marginalization in ourselves and in our wider community.*

## **Today's Scripture Readings**

Luke 6:17-27

## **Worship Leaders**

Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Pastor Margaret Ernst

Reader – Tom Adil

Ushers – Paul & Wanda Druzba

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Pat Babel

## **Flower Dedication**

---

## **Join us for Sunday Morning Music & Worship**

**9:30 – 10:30am Sunday In-Person / Zoom Worship**

Connect online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86359317508>

Or by phone to listen to the service:

Call 1-646-876-9923 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID: 863 5931 7508

---

300 West First Street, Birdsboro PA 19508  
610-582-8461 + [office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org) + [www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org](http://www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org)  
Pastor: Rev. Margaret Ernst + [pastorernst@stpaulsbirdsboro.org](mailto:pastorernst@stpaulsbirdsboro.org)  
Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

## Prelude

## Welcome

### Call to Worship

**Leader (L):** Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope as we hear the Words of Jesus Christ.

**People (P):** “Peace be with you.”

L: When peace and justice seem uncertain, let us hear anew the Words of Jesus Christ.

**P: “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?”**

L: Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ, whose love, and light dwells within us.

**P: Let our lives be witnesses of these things.**

**All: Help us to be instruments of Christ’s peace to all in need of God’s healing love.**

Opening Hymn      “Be Thou My Vision”      NCH #451

### Announcements

#### Invitation to Confession

L: Loving God, in your infinite wisdom, we are glad that you make all things new.

**P: Where there is hate, show your love.**

L: Where there is war, bring your peace.

**P: Where there is despair, bring your hope.**

L: Where there is fear, bring your understanding.

**P: Where there is scarcity, bring your abundance.**

L: Where there is systemic oppression, bring equal justice for all.

**All: By your perfect grace and mercy, make us new. May it be so. Amen.**

*(A moment of quiet reflection)*

#### Words of Assurance

L: Loving God, thank you for the assurance of your grace.

You grant us all your radical hope even when the world brings despair.

**P: Help us to trust in your peace,  
not the peace that is the absence of tension but the presence of justice.**

L: Believing you will bring peace in our hearts, and to all the earth. Guiding us, so that all may come to know Jesus Christ, who is our Prince of Peace. In his name, we pray. Amen.

### Passing the Peace

## Hymn "Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary"

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
Haz de mí, Dios, hoy, un san - tua - rio vi - vo; pu - ro y

ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing, I'll be a  
san - to, fiel a ti. Dan - do gra - cias, se - ré por

To repeat / Para repetir Last time / Última vez

liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you. you.  
siem - pre tu san - tua - rio, has - ta el fin. fin.

Words & Music: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, © 1982 Full Armor Music Publishing Co. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-714498. All rights reserved

### We Listen For God's Word

Scripture Luke 6:17-27

Sermon Commissioning

## Hymn "I Want Jesus to Go With Me" NCH #490

### Liturgy of Farewell

#### Greeting

L: Our church family is constantly changing.  
People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up.  
People commit themselves to one another.  
Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.  
Individuals move into our community and church life.  
Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities.  
It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage,  
of endings and beginnings.  
Today we share the time of farewell with a friend who is leaving.

## Remembrance and Recognition

### Giving and Sharing of Symbols

#### Ending of Authorized Ministry

L: On October 1, 2021 this local church called Pastor Margaret Ernst to serve as Pastor.

Pastor Margaret: I thank St. Paul's Birdsboro, its members and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown me these last 2 1/2 years.

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.

As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**P: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness,  
and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere.**

**We express our gratitude for your time among us.**

**We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.**

**Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

Pastor Margaret: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God

#### Vows of Release

L: Do you, the members and friends of St. Paul's Birdsboro release Pastor Margaret from the duties of Pastor?

**P: We do, with the help of God.**

L: Do you offer your encouragement for his/her ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

**P: We do, with the help of God.**

L: Do you, Pastor Margaret, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

**Pastor Margaret: I do, with the help of God.**

#### Offering

Hymn

"It Is Well With My Soul"

NCH #438

**Gathering the Prayers of the People**

## The Lord's Prayer

**P: Our Creator, 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, for ever. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn "How Great Thou Art" WHM #111**

## Benediction

## Postlude

+ +

## Announcements

**Pastor Margaret's Farewell** – Today we say farewell to Pastor Margaret. We invite you to gather, following worship, for a celebration of her time here at St Paul's. There will be treats and great community!

**Bible Study** is held in the upper room in the church each Sunday beginning at 8:30am. Join us for good conversation and discussion about the books of the bible. The group is currently discussing the Book of Mark.

**Yard Sale is ON** – We will be hosting a yard sale on Saturday, April 27 in order to finish cleaning out some items in the community area of the church. There is a need for a few volunteers to help set up and organize the items that will be sold. If you are able to help any time throughout the next 2 weeks, please see Doug Johnson.

**Rental Space Available at St Paul's** - Do you have an upcoming event? Are you part of a group that is looking for space to hold meetings? Are you interested in a quiet space to work? If so, there are several options available here at St. Paul's UCC-Birdsboro that may work for you. Both the Christian Education Building and the Church Building have spaces that you can rent. These spaces can be used for, but are not limited to:

Group Meetings, Conference Space, Office/Work Space, Classes, Parties, Receptions

Rates vary depending on the frequency that the space will be used. We also provide special rates for non-profit organizations. If you have questions or are interested in renting a space, please contact the church office.

**Fuel Offering** – To help offset the church’s increasing energy & fuel costs, we are asking if you would consider giving a donation. An envelope has been provided in this bulletin. You can also use a special offering envelope (found in the pews), or make a digital donation through our ‘Give’ page on our church website. Thank you!

**Caring Closet** - Ashley Griffith, the coordinator for the Daniel Boone School District’s “Caring Closet” sent a note to the church, expressing their gratefulness for the church’s generosity. She was asked if there were any special needs at this time and she responded:

- We are always in need of boys underwear for our elementary schools, S-XL
- We are always in need of girls underwear for our middle school and high school, S-XL
- We would like to start stocking detergent and dryer sheets at all 4 of our schools (just a few of each)
- We are currently in need of applesauce squeeze pouches and individual goldfish snacks
- Sweatpants of all sizes are always needed

Again, thank you for the outpouring of support. We are grateful to have such a supportive group of community members eager to serve our Boone families. Be Well, Ashley

**Community Shredding Events** – Sponsored by Amity Township Crime Watch and Thrivent Five Pillars Financial Group, Saturday April 20, 2024 (Rain or Shine), 9:00 A.M. to Noon, Redner’s Parking Lot, Douglassville, PA - Open to residents in Douglassville and surrounding areas. Only local businesses please! Shredding is done by ProShred Security of Paoli. Donations accepted to help defray the cost of the shredding truck.

**Mission Trip Birdsboro and Beyond** – **MTBB is in its 11<sup>th</sup>** year of living the love of Christ within our greater Community. MTBB Week will be July 17-20, 2024.

**Assistance Applications** - If you or someone you know needs help with something around their home, they may be able to help. You may complete your application online <https://www.missiontribirdsboro.org/assistance> or you may download your application and send via email or mail (hard copies are on the table at the side door entrance). **NOTE: A site selection team member will follow up with you to schedule an appointment to visit the residence and discuss the request once it has been submitted. Applicants will be informed of their selection status (and scope of assistance provided) by the first full week in July. Currently assistance is limited to homeowners living within a 15 minute drive of St. Mark’s, Birdsboro.**

**MTBB Volunteer Registration is now Open** –As you know, participants form an interfaith, inter-denominational team but, common to all, is the desire to live Christ’s teaching to love and serve one another. Anyone who participated 2021-2023 has an account set up. You will need to register by using the returning volunteer link to confirm or update your information. For any **NEW** volunteers, there is a separate link available in order for you to create your account. Both new and previous volunteers can find their respective link at <https://www.missiontribirdsboro.org/volunteer>

**Boyer's 1% Caring & Sharing** – When shopping at Boyer's don't forget to have the cashier scan your 1% Caring & Sharing card (this card has St. Paul's name printed on the back of it). Every time you use the card Boyer's will give St. Paul's a rebate check totaling 1% of the total purchases made by those who used the card. This is a simple and easy way to help St. Paul's. If you don't have a card but would like one, please contact the church office.

**Redner's Save-A-Tape** – We are still collecting Redner's tapes for which St. Paul's can receive 1% of the total bill (Excluding items controlled by the government such as tax, milk and tobacco products). Redner's accepts receipts for redemption up to three years from their printed date and there is no dollar limit. Start saving tapes today! You can drop your receipts in the weekly offering plate or mailed to the church office.

*Electronic Giving is available with the GivePlus+ App or through our website "Give" page.*

## **We Offer Prayers for...**

The Family of Barry Buchanan  
Linda Badman

## **Joys & Blessings**

### **St Paul's Weekly Calendar**

|                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Sunday, April 14    | <b>Pastor Margaret's Farewell</b><br>Ablaze Fellowship (CE)<br>Worship (C)<br>Meet & Greet (C)<br>New Millennium (CE) | 9am- 1pm<br>9:30am<br>following worship<br>7pm-8pm |
| Monday, April 15    | Tax Day   |  |
| Tuesday, April 16   | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)  | 5:30pm-7pm   |
| Wednesday, April 17 | Disciple Bible Study (CE)   | 9:30am-10:30am                                     |
| Thursday, April 18  | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)<br>Sober @ 6:30 (CE)   | 5:30pm – 7pm<br>6:30pm–7:30pm                      |
| Friday, April 19    | Beginners Meeting (CE)  | 7pm-8pm  |
| Saturday, April 20  | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)  | 8:30am – 2pm                                       |
| Sunday, April 21    | Ablaze Fellowship (CE)<br>Worship (C)<br>New Millennium (CE)  | 9am- 1pm<br>9:30am<br>7pm-8pm                      |

#### This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues – Thurs 8:30am – 2:00pm