

A photograph of a flock of sheep grazing in a lush green field. The sheep are scattered across the foreground and middle ground, some facing left and some right. The background shows rolling green hills under a bright sky with scattered white clouds. The sun is visible on the right side, creating a soft glow.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
A welcoming Christ-centered community...

Fourth Sunday of Easter
9:30 am Worship

April 21, 2024

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

Psalm 23 + John 10:11-18

Worship Leaders

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

Worship Leader – Janeen Adil

Reader – Barb Kerper

Ushers – John Herold & Nancy Dragan

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Wanda Druzba

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 + www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org
Pastor: Rev. Margaret Ernst + pastore Ernst@stpaulsbirdsboro.org
Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

Welcome

Prelude

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 23

Leader: Come, walk in green pastures.

People: We follow the Shepherd.

L: Come, lie down in green pastures.

P: We trust the Shepherd.

L: Come, dine at the table of abundance.

P: We are fed by the Shepherd.

L: Come, dwell in God's house.

All: We live in the Shepherd's care.

Opening Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #1 (NCH)

Announcements

Invitation to Confession

(A moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Assurance

from Micah 6:7-8

L: Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

**P: The LORD has told you, O mortal, what is good
and what the LORD requires from you:**

**All: to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God.**

Passing the Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

We Listen for God's Word

Scripture

Psalm 23 (*printed in the bulletin, following the Postlude*), John 10:11-18 (pg. 79)

Sermon

Hymn "The Lord's My Shepherd"



1. The LORD's my Shep-herd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2. My soul He doth re-store a-gain; and me to walk doth make
3. Yea, though I walk thro' death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4. My ta-ble Thou hast fur-nish-ed in pres-ence of my foes;
5. Good-ness and mer-cy all my life shall sure-ly fol-low me;

in pas-tures green; He lead-eth me the qui-et wa-ters by.
with-in the paths of right-eous-ness, e'en for His own name's sake.
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod and staff me com-fort still.
my head Thou dost with oil a-noint, and my cup o-ver-flows.
and in God's house for ev-er-more my dwell-ing place shall be.

Offering

Gathering the Prayers of the People

Prayer of Intercession: Good Shepherd *(based on Psalms 23, 95, 118; John 10)*

L: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we are safe and secure. Within your embrace we know that we are precious in your sight. Within your embrace we feel the warmth of family and belonging. Within your embrace we grow and are nurtured together as one flock, the people of your pasture under your loving care and protection.

Come, let us bow down

P: Before the LORD our Maker

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find comfort and healing. We bring to you those who are weak, or struggling with physical, mental or spiritual health. You are the great healer, and we pray for healing of mind and body for those we now name in the silence of our hearts.

Come, let us bow down

P: Before the LORD our Maker

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find justice. We bring to you the brave voices who cry out for freedom, those prepared to stand up and be heard without counting the cost. We pray for those who have been imprisoned or tortured for their race, colour, caste or faith. For all Christians who have taken up the Cross and know its weight and pain.

Come, let us bow down

P: Before the LORD our Maker

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find peace. We bring to you those orphaned, crippled or dispossessed by war, for refugees wandering this earth in search of a home, for all victims of strife and warfare, and for all those who have dedicated their lives for the search for peace and reconciliation.

Come, let us bow down

P: Before the LORD our Maker

ALL: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.**

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn “Peace, I Leave with You, My Friends” #249 (NCH)

Benediction

L: We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,

P: and gives us refreshment of soul.

L: Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,

P: so that the name of God will be glorified.

L: Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,

P: for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.

L: We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,

All: and we shall be with him for ever and ever. Amen!

Postlude

Liturgy resources:

Lectionary Sermons Worship Resources archive

Prayer written by John Birch, and posted on his Faith and Worship website

Jim Cotter, *Psalms for a Pilgrim People*

Psalm 23

Dear God, you sustain me and feed me:

like a shepherd you guide me.

You lead me to an oasis of green,

to lie down by restful waters.

Quenching my thirst, you restore my life:

renewed and refreshed, I follow you,

a journey on the narrowest of paths.

You keep me true to your name.

Even when cliffs loom out of the mist,
my step is steady because of my trust.
Even when I go through the deepest valley,
with the shadow of darkness and death,
I will fear no evil or harm.
For you are with me to give me strength,
your crook, your staff, at my side.

Even in the midst of my troubles,
with the murmurs of those who disturb me,
I know I can feast in your presence.

You spread a banquet before me,
you anoint my head with oil,
you stoop to wash my feet,
you fill my cup to the brim.

Your loving kindness and mercy
will meet me every day of my life.
By your Spirit you dwell within me,
and in the whole world around me,
and I shall abide in your house,
content in your presence for ever.

A very beautiful musical interpretation of Psalm 23, by Bobby McFerrin.
He dedicated this to his mother: listen closely and consider if/how the psalm is changed for you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BsQCLrXXuvQ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cn2zKKhhF3I>

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Announcements

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 from 8am-12:30pm**. Remember to tell your friends families & neighbor about this Saturday’s yard sale starting at 8am at the church. **RAIN or SHINE**. Items will be both inside and outside. This is a cash only sale. Proceeds benefit the ministry of St. Paul’s UCC.

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!

Mission Trip Birdsboro and Beyond – **MTBB is in its 11th** 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.missiontripbirdsboro.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).

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.missiontripbirdsboro.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 James (Craig) Hawk

Joys & Blessings

St Paul's Weekly Calendar

| | | |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Sunday, April 21 | Hearts Ablaze Fellowship (CE)
Worship (C)
New Millennium (CE) | 9am- 1pm
9:30am
7pm-8pm |
| Tuesday, April 23 | Hopewell LOVE Food Distribution (CE)
Woman's Club (CE)
Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) | 1pm-5pm
7pm-8pm
5:30pm-7pm |
| Wednesday, April 24 | Disciple Bible Study (CE) | 9:30am-10:30am |
| Thursday, April 25 | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)
Sober @ 6:30 (CE) | 5:30pm – 7pm
6:30pm–7:30pm |
| Friday, April 26 | Beginners Meeting (CE) | 7pm-8pm |
| Saturday, April 27 | St Paul's Yard Sale (C)
Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) | 8am-12:30pm
8:30am – 2pm |
| Sunday, April 28 | Hearts Ablaze Fellowship (CE)
Worship (C)
New Millennium (CE) | 9am- 1pm
9:30am
7pm-8pm |

This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues – Thurs 8:30am – 2:00pm

