



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

*A welcoming Christ-centered community...*

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Feb 1, 2026  
9:30am Worship

## **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**

Micah 6:1-8 + Matthew 5:1-12

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Nancy Dragan

Ushers – Dave & Diane Johnson

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Wanda Druzba

## **Flower Dedication**

To the Glory of God in memory of Ken Dragan by wife Nancy & family

**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)  
Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*(please rise, in body or in spirit)*

### Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to hear God's Word.

**People: Jesus' teaching surprises us! It is not the world's wisdom, but God's.**

Leader: It moves us with sorrow for the sorrow of the world

**People: and makes us strong through our tears.**

Leader: It offers us humility to admit our failures

**People: and plants seeds of hope in the ashes.**

Leader: It makes us hungry for justice

**People: and gives us food that lasts.**

Leader: It invites us to practice what we preach

**People: and offers joy in that challenge.**

Leader: It supports us in standing firm for truth, even when it costs

**People: and promises the truth will set us free.**

**All: Let us worship God together!**

**Opening Hymn: "God of Grace and God of Glory" NCH #436**

*[New Century Hymnal]*

## **Prayer of Transformation and New Life**

Leader: God of our lives, you are always turning the world upside down, calling us to follow you into new ventures, new challenges, new ways to care, new ways to touch the hearts of all. When we get tired, or feel disappointed, remind us that you can bring change and hope out of the most difficult situations, so that we may do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you always. We ask that you hear now the confession of our hearts and lips:

Leader: The world's wisdom surrounds us:

*Voice 1: Look out for number one...*

*Voice 2: Get them before they get you...*

*Voice 3: Better be safe than sorry...*

*Voice 4: What's someone else's problem got to do with me?...*

*Voice 5: Only the strong survive...*

*Voice 6: Money makes the world go 'round...*

*Voice 7: Revenge is sweet...*

*Voice 8: Avoid pain at all costs...*

**All: May God forgive us when we, as Christ's own people, believe these words to be life-giving when Jesus has shown us a better way.**

*(a moment of quiet reflection)*

## **Words of Grace**

Leader: Hear the good news: Jesus shows us the way to life. In Christ, God forgives us and restores us to the way of justice, mercy, and humility. Through Christ, we are set free to BE love in the world!

**People: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **Passing the Peace**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **We Listen For God's Word: Scripture**

Micah 6:1-8 [page #672] + Matthew 5:1-12 [page #3]

### **Sermon: The Vision Beautiful**

**Hymn:**

**"Be Now My Vision"**

**NCH #451**

### **Gathering the Prayers of the People**

*After each petition, we will say the following –*

Leader: Holy One...

**All: Lord Hear Our Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**All: 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.**

#### **Offering**

#### **Holy Communion**

##### **Invitation to the Table**

Leader: We gather around this table in praise and thanksgiving, bringing our hopes and our fears, our whole selves. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here. Let us pray:

Leader: We praise you, God, for this table set in love for all who seek you.

Praise, too, for this company, heaven and earth assembled for the feast.

Praise for the mercy we find here, as you embrace us all.

**All: Aware of our failings and grateful for your kindness, we ask help for our hearts, that we may grow in love the purposes of your mercy and the cause of justice.**

Leader: Mindful also of everyone whose lives are marred by exclusion and pain, we thank you for the joy we find in your house. We call to mind every victim shamed and slaughtered by the world's powers, every person who cries for breath. With them, present at this table, we will tell again the dangerous story of love triumphant over death.

## **Remembering the Story**

Leader: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus. He sided with the poor, made the sick well, welcomed sinners, and ate with outcasts.

**People: We remember. We refuse to forget.**

Leader: He told the truth at the cost of his life.

**People: We remember. We refuse to forget.**

Leader: Betrayed and deserted by his friends, he was killed as common criminal, shamed and despised.

**People: We remember. We refuse to forget.**

Leader: Death could not hold him. God raised him in power from the grave.

**People: We remember. We refuse to forget.**

Leader: He returned to us without vengeance, only mercy in his hands. He is with us now, to the end of the age.

**People: We remember. We refuse to forget.**

Leader: And we remember that on the night of betrayal, he fed us with signs of love:  
a loaf, broken and shared;  
a cup, poured and passed from hand to hand;  
a meal to eat in resistance, grace and courage for the struggle that goes on.

**All: “Whenever you do this,” he said, “remember me.”**

Leader: And so, to this day, we continue to share bread and the fruit of the vine together, receiving sustenance to offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice to the world God loves, in union with Christ’s offering for us.

## **Blessing of the Meal**

Leader: Let us pray.

Come, Holy Spirit, Life of our life!

Bless this grain from the earth, this fruit of the vine. Make them food and drink of abundant life.

**All: As we share this meal, help us rejoice that Christ is present with us here. Give us love for one another, and make us servants of peace until your new age of justice comes and every creature beholds it. Amen.**

## Sharing the Meal

*(Communion will be served in the pews today. All are welcome to share in the meal. The ushers will bring the bread and fruit of the vine to you. Please serve the person sitting next to you, until all in your pew are served, then pass the tray back to the usher. Hold the bread until everyone has been served. Consume when the pastor invites everyone to eat together. Do the same for the wine/grape juice. The wine is the darker liquid, the grape juice lighter. )*

## Prayer after the Meal

Leader: Let us give thanks for all we have received.

**All: Thank you, gracious God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus: for the witness we cannot forget and the mission of justice you have made our own. May the gifts of this shared meal, this Holy Communion strengthen us in body and spirit, as we go from here. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*(please rise, in body or in spirit)*

**Sending Hymn: “As We Gather at Your Table”**

**NCH #332**

*[New Century Hymnal]*

## Benediction

## Postlude

*Liturgy adapted from:*

*Worship Ways for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, United Church of Christ. ©2020.*

[www.ucc.org/worship-ways](http://www.ucc.org/worship-ways)

*Communion Liturgy adapted from:*

*Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living, a publication of “God is Still Speaking, The Writers’ Group,” edited by the Rev. Mary Luti, ©2023 (The Pilgrim Press: Cleveland), p.6-8.*

[www.thepilgrimpress.com](http://www.thepilgrimpress.com)

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## **Announcements**

### **GOOD NEWS TO SHARE!!! BIRDSBORO SHARES IS LIVE!!!!**

Birdsboro Shares is a mutual aid network that we have been working on. This is a network of neighbors helping neighbors. Whether you have a need, a resource/skill to share, or both, we all enter the network the same way., through the Birdsboro Shares form on St Paul's website. See link:

<https://stpaulsbirdsboro.org/birdsboro-shares-mutual-aid-network/>

Your help is needed to get the word out, so please share with friends and neighbors!!.

**Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for today, February 1, 2026. This meeting will be held in the church immediately after Sunday Service.

### **St. Paul's Super Bowl Take and Bake Pizza Sale on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>!**

Enjoy a 12" prepared pizza you bake at home. Cheese \$9.00, Pepperoni \$9.50 and Sausage \$9.50. Order forms are due by February 1<sup>st</sup> and can be placed in the offering plate, given to Dave or Diane Johnson or sent to church office. Pizza pickup and payment are due Feb 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am-1:30pm at St. Paul's church building. Thank you!

**Altar Flowers for February** - We have openings for altar flower dedications. If you'd like to honor or memorialize someone, contact Wanda Druzba at 610-385-3382 or see her at church for information and to reserve a date. Thank you.

**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.

**"Prayers of the People"** – Our current Elders will be holding meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday evening of each month at 6pm via Zoom. All are welcome including phone participants. Contact Pat Babel at 484-949-5033 to be included in the email distribution. Thank you!

## **Caring Closet starting for 2025-2026 school year**

Ashley Griffith, the coordinator for the Daniel Boone School District's "Caring Closet" sent a flyer to the church asking for the following:

- \* Boys underwear for our Primary Center & Intermediate Center, S-XL & 4/5-12; & all sizes for Middle & High School
- \* Girls underwear for our Primary Center & Intermediate Center, S-XL & 4/5-12; & all sizes for Middle & High School
- \* Universal items such as applesauce squeeze pouches & individual goldfish snacks; children's toothpaste & toothbrushes; deodorant; tampons & panty liners

**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 Vanco Mobile App or through our website "Give" page.*



## St Paul's Weekly Calendar

Sun, Feb 1	Worship (C)	9:30am
	Congregational Meeting (C)	following worship
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Feb 3	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Womans' Club (CE)	7pm
Wed, Feb 4	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Feb 5	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Feb 6	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Feb 7	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
	Private Event (church fellowship hall)	1pm
Sun, Feb 8	Worship (C)	9:30am
	Take & Bake Pizza Sale (C)	following worship
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm

### This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues – Thurs 9:00am-1:00pm

### This Week: Pastor Deb's Office Hours

Tues/remote 9:00am-1:00pm

Wed/in-office 9:00am-1:00pm

Thurs/remote 9:00am-1:00pm



The Covenant Association  
of the Keystone Conference UCC  
News from around the Association  
February 1, 2026

# Keystone

CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

This is the very first Association-wide newsletter from Covenant Association. Our hope is for this monthly publication to strengthen connections among our 45 churches by sharing moments of joy and times of difficulty.

The main purpose of this inaugural issue is to introduce our leadership team and foster unity within Covenant Association, especially following the formation of the new Keystone Conference. The Association's leaders have been considering ways for us to remain connected as we continue serving our Lord and Savior together.

Covenant is now one of seven associations that make up Region 1 of the Keystone Conference, alongside Ursinus, Philadelphia, North Penn, Lebanon, York, and Lancaster.

Here are the members of the Executive Committee and the leadership for the Covenant Association:

- The Rev. Sharon S. Morris serves as Moderator. She is a retired clergy member who currently serves as part-time pastor at St. John's UCC in Pricetown. [revsmorris@gmail.com](mailto:revsmorris@gmail.com)
- We are seeking a Vice Moderator, ideally a layperson who enjoys leadership and creative connection-building. Please prayerfully consider if you are called to serve.
- Our secretary is the Rev. Linda Kozlowski, pastor of Good Shepherd UCC on Tuckerton Rd. in Muhlenberg Township. [pastorlindakoz@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlindakoz@gmail.com)
- Mr. Tom Wright is currently Treasurer and a member of Maiden Creek Church—a combined Lutheran and UCC congregation. The Rev. Tammie Wisniewski will be nominated to succeed him at our Spring meeting on April 26, 2026. [Twright128@ptd.net](mailto:Twright128@ptd.net)
- Our Committee on Ministry is co-chaired by the Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson ([pastorstevensimpson@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevensimpson@gmail.com)) and the Rev. Tom Adil ([pastor.tom.adil@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.tom.adil@gmail.com)). This committee oversees pastoral care across the association and welcomes volunteers.

## The Covenant Association (*cont*)

- Mr. Carl Altenderfer chairs the subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry that is responsible for those seeking ordained ministry in the UCC, diligently supporting candidates as they discern their call to ministry. This committee also supports lay, commissioned and licensed pastors. [carl1801@comcast.net](mailto:carl1801@comcast.net)
- The nominating committee is chaired by the Rev. Mary Etta Mest, pastor at UCC of Robesonia ([maryettamest@gmail.com](mailto:maryettamest@gmail.com)). Recruiting volunteers is challenging, so please say yes if asked—it's a great way to meet others and share both joys and sorrows in church ministry.
- Currently, Mr. Rick Deerfield represents us on the Transition Board of the Keystone Conference, keeping us informed about broader conference news. The new Keystone Conference includes 20 associations, so there is much work ahead. [rickdeer@rocketmail.com](mailto:rickdeer@rocketmail.com)
- Our Regional Conference Minister, the Rev. Kevin McLemore, was previously on staff with the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and now supports all seven associations in our region. [kevin@keystoneucc.org](mailto:kevin@keystoneucc.org)

To ensure care for our pastors during health issues, grief, or joyful events, the association created a Clergy Care Team made up of local pastors. More information will follow soon.

We hope this newsletter has been informative. Next month, we'll discuss the UCC and our covenantal polity. Future editions will feature highlights from individual congregations to help us get to know one another and the ministries happening throughout Covenant Association.

Mark your calendars! Our Spring Gathering is Sunday, April 26, 2026; location to be announced. We're looking forward to hearing our joint choir again!

Blessings to all of you!

The Rev. Sharon S. Morris, **Moderator**

Rev. Robert Turner manages our website and weekly eblast. Sign up for updates at [communications@covenantassociation.org](mailto:communications@covenantassociation.org) and visit our website at: [Covenantassociation.org](http://Covenantassociation.org)

There's a wealth of information available for you and your congregation!