



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Feb 8, 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

Isaiah 58:1-12 + Matthew 5:13-20

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Stuart Wells

Ushers – Marion & Derek Prince

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 +
www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org
Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship

Leader: Shout it out – no holding back!

People: There is truth that needs to be spoken.

Leader: Let the people rise and hear it.

People: We are listening.

Leader: Shout to the weary, the overlooked, the worn-thin.

People: With courage, we gather. With voices, we speak words of life.

Leader: Shout to the hearts carrying hidden weight,

People: the Holy One meets us here in our honesty.

Leader: Shout to the systems that press people down!

People: Their power is not the final word.

Leader: A new song is rising –

People: a song that frees, a rhythm that restores, a melody of reparation.

Leader: Shout to the builders, the dreamers, the stubbornly hopeful:

People: The time has come for burdens to lift, for the grip of harm to loosen, for the rebuilding of what has been broken.

Leader: Come, Beloved Community, come.

Bring your resolve, your compassion, your wide-awake faith.

All: Let us worship together the God who calls us!

Opening Hymn:

“Gather Us In”

W&R #649

Permission to reprint/stream obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-714498

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, shad-ows of doubt are
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3 Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4 Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-ely,



van-ished a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings.
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory.
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing:



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



GATHERING

D/F# G A D A/C# C G

spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Bb/D D

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray. Calling-Voice-That-Won't-Be-Silenced, we come into this moment carrying the weight of our days... hear now the prayer of our hearts:

All: Calling-Presence, who knows our hidden places, we admit that we have not always chosen the path that frees. We have stayed silent when truth asked for our voice; we have protected our comfort when compassion asked for our hands; we have waited for others to do the work you entrusted to us. Break the patterns that bind us to what harms. Teach us the courage to act with mercy. Teach us the way of releasing what we cling to so that we and others may breathe more easily. Let this moment mark a turning – a turning toward your justice, a turning toward your tenderness, a turning toward the shared life you imagine for us. In your grace, make us new...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: the One who calls us out in truth, meets us with mercy that lifts what is heavy and compassion that steadies our steps. When we turn toward justice, God's healing begins working in us. When we loosen what harms, God loosens the weight within us. When we offer ourselves to repair, God says to us, "Here I am." In this promise, we receive freedom to begin again, in grace and love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: 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

Isaiah 58:1-12 [*page #533*] + Matthew 5:13-20 [*page #3*]

Reader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Salt and Light

Affirmation of Faith: (UCC Statement of Faith, NCH #885)

Leader: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

ALL: In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,

You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Gathering the Prayers of the People

After each petition, we will say the following –

Leader: Holy One...

All: Hear Our Prayer

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, forever.
Amen.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Offering Dedication

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: "You Are Salt for the Earth, O People" NCH #181
[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

*Liturgy adapted from: Worship Ways **Remove the Yoke: Service Prayers for Epiphany 5A** by the Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio Northeast, of the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ, ©2026.*

+++++

Announcements

No Meet and Greet this month

The first Sunday of Lent is February 22nd. We will be having imposition of ashes for those who desire it. Daily devotional cards for each day of Lent, as we had last year, will also be available. This year's theme is : "Tell Me Something Good."

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!!.

St. Paul's Super Bowl Take and Bake Pizza Sale today, Sun, February 8th!

Pizza pickup and payment are due Feb 8th 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 4th 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 8	Worship (C)	9:30am
	Take and Bake Pizza Pickup (C)	10:30-1:30
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Feb 10	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Womans' Club (CE)	7pm
Wed, Feb 11	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Feb 12	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Feb 13	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Feb 14	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Feb 15	Worship (C)	9:30am
	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
- 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
- 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
- Our Committee on Ministry is co-chaired by the Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson (pastorstevensimpson@gmail.com) and the Rev. Tom Adil (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
- The nominating committee is chaired by the Rev. Mary Etta Mest, pastor at UCC of Robesonia (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
- 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

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 and visit our website at: Covenantassociation.org

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