



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

2nd Sunday in Lent

Mar 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

Luke 7:36-50 + Matthew 25:35-40

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Doug Johnson

Ushers – Andy & Barb Headman

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – John Herold

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: Tell me something good!

People: God loves you more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God's love meets us in this place. We are not alone!

Leader: This is good news, indeed!

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" WHM #94

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Prayers of Transformation

Leader: Family of faith, we long to love others as God loves us, but that work is easier said than done. We lose our way. We become distracted. We grow fearful. We need God's grace. Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given. So join me in the Prayer of Confession. Join me in being transformed.

All: Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book? God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow we pray. Amen.

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Friends, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

All: We are seen.

We are forgiven.

We are invited to try again.

Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture

Luke 7: 36-50 [page #50] + **Matthew 25:35-40** [page #22]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *The Good News is...Great Love for God and Neighbor!*

Hymn: "I Come with My Devotion"

Words: Anna Strickland (2025) Music: Arthur H. Mann (1881)

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I Come With My Devotion

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6 D ("O Jesus I Have Promised")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Arthur H. Mann (1881)



I come with my de - vo - tion to love and serve
I hear my Sa - vior's call - ing to serve the lost
God made us in God's im - age each per - son whom



my God Whose lov - ing cos - mos formed me
and least The hun - gry and im - pris - oned,
we meet Ex - tra - va - gant - ly lov - ing



be - fore I e - ver sought The glo - ry of the
the bro - ken ones like me For in each act of
all of hu - man - i - ty So I'll re - turn the



hea - vens or praise on earth be - low So ev - ery
kind - ness it's Christ for whom we care All wor - thy
love which has formed me from the start — Lov - ing



gift I have now I lay be - fore the throne
of our love — since it's God's face we bear
my cre - a - tor, my - self, and ev - ery heart

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 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

[Communion will be served by intinction today. All are welcome to share in the meal. Please come forward as the spirit moves you. Receive ashes, if desired, then receive the bread (which is gluten-free), dip it in the cup (wine is the darker liquid, the grape juice is the lighter), and partake before returning to your seat. There are cup holders for your empty cups in the pews. If you would like ashes and/or communion brought to you, please let an usher know.]

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy and gracious God, you created a world of abundance..

And so we join our voices with all who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
as we say together:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Leader: We remember that on the night of his betrayal...

And so we remember – his life of compassion, his death born of injustice, his resurrection that breaks every chain and sets us all free, as we proclaim:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Words of Consecration

Sharing the Meal

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Prayer after the Meal

Leader: Gracious God,

All: we thank you for this feast. You have met us in bread and cup. You have renewed us in body and spirit. You have reminded us that every table can become your table. Send us now into the world – to wipe tears without fear, to love without calculation, to serve without hesitation. May we recognize the Christ in the hungry and the thirsty, in the stranger and the imprisoned, in the overlooked and the dismissed. And when we falter, bring us again to this table of grace. In the name of Jesus who loved much and loves still. Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant ” NCH #539
[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:

"Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent," by Rev. Sarah Speed, © 2026 A Sanctified Art/Words for Worship.

Offering Prayers adapted from *Worship Ways, "Of Water and Spirit: Service Prayers for Lent 2A"* by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, ©2026, www.ucc.org

Communion liturgy adapted from the response to the ChatGPT prompt, "Please write a communion liturgy in the UCC tradition based on Luke 7:36-50 and Matthew 25:35-40.

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Announcements

Daylight Saving Time Begins next Sunday, March 8, 2026

Meet & Greet – Sunday, March 8th following worship – Please join us next week!

Altar Flowers for March – We have openings for altar flower dedications for March 22nd and 29th . 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.

March Special Offering –When natural or human made disasters occur in the United States or around the world, the United Church of Christ is able to respond because of your One Great Hour of Sharing offerings. Ensuring for health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives, your OGHS offerings are hard at work 365 days a year touching and changing lives. Throughout this month, let us say yes to caring by offering our generous support to One Great Hour of Sharing!

Easter Flowers –If you are interested in purchasing Easter flowers from Spring Garden’s, the offerings are: Lilies (\$15.00), Hyacinth (\$15.00), Daffodils (\$15.00), Tulips (\$15.00), Mums (\$12.00), please contact Betsy Johnson at 610-582-8461. The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday worship and they can be taken home immediately following the service. Flower orders and payment is due by Sunday, March 8th.

Daniel Boone School District Food Gift Cards - In support of the DBASD efforts to provide support for local families in need, St. Paul’s is accepting donations to go toward providing a \$100 food gift card (Boyers or Redner’s), per family. Donations can be made by noting “DBASD Food Gift Cards” on your envelope. Deadline is Monday, March 16th. Thank you for partnering with St. Paul’s UCC, Berks Ministerium, and the DBASD.

Super Bowl Pizza Sale - Dave and Diane Johnson would like to thank everyone who supported the Super Bowl Pizza Sale. We were able to raise \$776.00!!

Daily devotional cards for each day of Lent, as we had last year, is still 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!!.

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, Mar 1	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Mar 3	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Woman's Club (CE)	7pm
Wed, Mar 4	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Mar 5	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Mar 6	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Mar 7	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Mar 8	Daylight Saving Time Begins	
	Worship (C)	9:30am
	Meet and Greet (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

March 1, 2026

Keystone

CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

DID YOU KNOW?

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a Protestant Christian denomination with a rich theological tradition that places significant emphasis on the concept of “covenant.” Unlike many denominations that focus on hierarchical or creedal structures, the UCC understands itself as a “covenantal” church, which deeply shapes its identity, governance, and relationships among its members and congregations.

In its most basic sense, a covenant is a sacred agreement or promise, often seen throughout the Bible as foundational to the relationship between God and God’s people. In the UCC, covenant refers to intentional, mutual relationships of trust and responsibility, both with God and with one another. This idea is rooted in the biblical tradition, where covenants are made between God and individuals or communities, such as Abraham, Moses, or the people of Israel.

The UCC is organized not by a strict hierarchy or by rigid rules, but by a series of covenants. Congregations, associations, conferences, and the national setting of the church all relate to each other through covenants rather than through top-down authority. Each setting of the church is “autonomous but not independent,” meaning that while each body governs its own affairs, it does so in partnership and accountability with others.

For example, local churches covenant with their regional associations and conferences, promising to walk together in faith, support, and mutual accountability. These relationships are voluntary and based on trust, rather than enforced by legal or doctrinal requirements.

Covenant in the UCC also shapes the way members interact with each other. When individuals join a UCC congregation, they often make a covenant with that community, committing to grow in faith together, support one another, and serve the wider world. This sense of covenant extends to relationships with other churches, ecumenical partners, and the broader Christian community.

The Covenant Association (cont)

This approach allows for diversity of belief and practice within the UCC, as the covenantal structure prioritizes relationship and mutual respect over uniformity. Churches and members are encouraged to listen deeply to one another and to discern God's will together, even when they may disagree.

To help our churches in understanding the covenantal polity of the UCC, the Manual on Local Church was created. This manual is now available as a free download from the UCC: <https://www.ucc.org/manual-on-church/>

This document clearly outlines covenants with God, members, and other UCC entities. I recommend all congregations review it as a valuable resource for your Consistory or Board.

The Manual on Local Church also has a section on "Local Church Governance". It includes information on Constitution and/or Bylaws. "Policies that equip the church for faithful ministry and attend to the practical and legal considerations for a local church."

Let us always remember that we are in covenant with one another so that the Word of God might be spread throughout the Covenant Association.

Let the Executive Committee know if you have any questions.
You can email us at revsmorris@gmail.com
Blessings, Rev. Sharon S. Morris, Moderator

MARCH EVENTS

Sunday, March 15, 3 pm, Pastoral Installation of Rose Shepley,
St. Paul's UCC, 5 West Arch St., Fleetwood, PA 19522

Sunday, March 22, 3 pm, Pastoral Installation of Domenik Ackermann,
Maidencreek Church, 261 Main St., Blandon, PA 19510

Sunday, April 26, 3 pm, Covenant Association Spring Meeting, at
St. John's (Gernants), 13 Gernants Road, Leesport, PA 19533