



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 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

Mark 6:32-44 + Ephesians 3:20-21

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Barb Headman

Ushers – Dave & Diane Johnson

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Doug Johnson

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God by Barb & Barry Kerper
in honor of son Keith and grandson Austin's birthdays

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: If you need good news, settle into this space.

All: We have good news to share.

Leader: If you need a word of hope,

All: then know there is hope enough to go around.

Leader: If you need a glimmer of joy, then you're in luck.

All: We have resilient joy abounding.

Leader: If you need to feel God's presence in our midst,

All: then know that God is here.

Leader: This is the good news of the gospel.

All: God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" WHM #551

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Prayers of Transformation

Leader: Friends... Please join me in the prayer of transformation.

Leader: Holy God,

All: with you the impossible is possible.

Five thousand can be fed.

A little can go a long way.

The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible, but we are quick to forget that.

We are easily overwhelmed.

**We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing
can be done.**

We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive us when our vision is too small.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

And even more, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Family of faith, no matter how many mistakes the disciples made, Jesus still saw possibility in them. The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news: Today is a new day. We are not alone. We are forgiven and loved and sent forth filled with God's potential in and among us.

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

Mark 6:32-44 [page #32] + Ephesians 3:20-21 [page #149]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

**Sermon: *The Good News is...
Together, the Impossible is Possible!***

Hymn: “Human Minds Just Can’t Imagine”

Words: Anna Strickland (2025) Music: Joseph Haydn (1797)

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Human Minds Just Can't Imagine

AUSTRIAN HYMN 8.7.8.7 D ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: Joseph Haydn (1797)



Hu - man minds just can't i - ma - gine all that God can bring
God, ex - pand our dreams and vi - sion when we think our gifts
Like the grains of wheat are ga - thered from the vast and roll -



to bear Through our small and sep - arate be - ings, e - ven
too small Help us trust your great pro - vis - ion and to
-ing fields Like the grapes from vi - ny bran - ches whose small



when we join to share Still we fol - low where Christ leads us,
an - swer when you call You who gave us time and ta - lents
fruit the wine will yield We re - mem - ber as one bo - dy,



ma - ny pie - ces of one whole That we might al - low
will up - hold and see us through As we join to - geth -
each of us a cru - cial part In the glo - bal church



our dream - ing to trans - form our bro - ken world
-er in the work you've gi - ven us to do
pro - fess - ing: we be - long to God's own heart

Gathering the Prayers of the People

After each petition, we will say the following –

Leader: Holy One, in your mercy (or another appropriate phrase),

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.

Offering

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn:

“Take My Gifts”

NCH #562

[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.

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Announcements

Save the Date for the church picnic. It will be on July 12th! Details to follow.

Today Is our Meet & Greet – Come join us following worship!

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.

Last Day to order 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.

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!

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.

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 8	Worship (C) Meet and Greet (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am following worship 7pm-8pm
Tues, Mar 10	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Woman's Club (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 7pm
Wed, Mar 11	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Mar 12	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Currently Sober (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Mar 13	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Mar 14	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Mar 15	Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 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