



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 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

Deuteronomy 24:17-22 (Common English Bible) + Matthew 19:13-15 (CEB)

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

Guest Worship Leader– Janeen Adil

Reader – Wanda Druzba

Ushers – Marion & Derek Prince

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Dave Johnson

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in thanks for the blessing of our family
by Wanda & Paul Druzba

**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

Thrice Holy God, come as the morning dew.
Inflame in us your love that draws all lesser loves to you.

Prelude

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship

Leader: I arise today in power's strength, invoking the Trinity,

**People: believing in threeness, confessing the oneness, of creation's
Creator.**

Leader: I arise today in the power of Christ's birth and baptism,

People: in the power of his crucifixion and burial,

Leader: in the power of his rising and ascending,

People: in the power of his descending and judging.

Leader: I arise today in power's strength, invoking the Trinity,

**People: believing in threeness, confessing the oneness, of creation's
Creator.**

Leader: For to the Lord belongs salvation, and to the Lord belongs salvation and
to Christ belongs salvation.

All: May your salvation, Lord, be with us always.

Opening Hymn:

"Morning Has Broken"

WHM #74

[trad. Gaelic melody/Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

(please be seated)

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

*Scriptural basis: Leviticus 19:33, Matthew 5:9, Deuteronomy 24:21,
Matthew 19:14, and Isaiah 43:1*

Leader: God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

People: Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Leader: Jesus said, "Blessed are peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

People: We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.

Leader: God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be before the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

People: We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.

Leader: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

People: We confess, we have gate-kept the good news in unfair ways."

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine"

People: By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.

Leader May this good news change our lives!

All: Amen.

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture

Deuteronomy 24: 17-22 (Common English Bible) + Matthew 19:13-15 (CEB)

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “*What Is Ours to Do?*”

Hymn: “See the Precious Children”

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See the Precious Children

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7 D ("As We Gather at Your Table")

Words: Anna Strickland (2025)

Music: B. F. White (1844)



See the pre-cious chil-dren seat-ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo-men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for-eign stran-gers as they car-ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis-poss-essed ones ask-ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im-pov-erished by our ma-lice and our greed



Called the great-est in the king-dom, held so gent-ly and a-dored They
Then re-turn-ing to their kit-chen to pre-pare their dai-ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan-gers for the pow-er-less and prone They
Sleep-ing un-der star-ry heav-ens, dai-ly liv-ing on the streets They
Hu-mans, a-ni-mals, and pla-net cry-ing out for some re-lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti-ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro-ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho-ly thing In our



weak-ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor-row they're held by love that re-deems each fra-gile part
jour-ney they're held by love as they start each day a-new
hun-ger they're held by love as they guard their hu-man pride
liv-ing we're held by love as we care for ev-ery being

Gathering the Prayers of the People

After each petition, we will say the following –

Leader: Holy One... in your mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Celtic Version of the Lord's Prayer

All: Holy One beyond all names

Eternal Wellspring

May love rise again in us today

With food for every table

Shelter for every family

And reverence for every life.

Forgive us our failings in love

And free us from all falseness

That the light of our souls may shine

And the strength of our spirits endure

For Earth and all its people

This day, tonight, and forever.

Amen

Offering and Dedication

Leader: When I give alms to the poor,

Let me not congratulate myself.

Let there be no pride in my act.

The wealth I possess is on loan;

God has made me its steward.

I am his hands and his heart.

Let my love for others be God's love;

Let my pity for others be his;

Let my alms be received as his gift.

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: “You Walk Along Our Shoreline”

NCH #504

[trad. Irish melody/New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Leader: As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak this good news.
For the good news of the gospel is
love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises,
and nonviolence that transforms.
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,
so go forth speaking.
For if you won't, then who will?
Thanks be to God
for this good, good news.
Amen.

Postlude

Call to Worship: The Lorica (Breastplate) of St. Patrick

Celtic Version of the Lord's Prayer: Dr. John Philp Newell, teacher and author of Celtic spirituality

Offering Dedication: “Wealth as Loan” ~ A Celtic poem/prayer

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

Our Daily Bread for March/April/May 2026 has arrived! Pick up your copy today!

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

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!

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 15	Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm
Tues, Mar 17	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Mar 18	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Mar 19	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Currently Sober (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Mar 20	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Mar 21	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Mar 22	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