



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

Palm Sunday

March 29, 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

Psalm 118:1,4 and 19-29 (NRSVUE) + Mark 11:1-11 (NRSVUE)

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Guest Worship Leader– Pat Babel

Reader – Nancy Dragan

Ushers – Nancy Hughes and Stuart Wells

Accompanist – Betsy Johnson

Acolyte – Diane Johnson

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: Will you follow? Will you lay down your coat? Will you lay down something important?

People: Will you shout “Hosanna?” Will you join the parade?

Leader: Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse?

People: Will you cut down a palm branch? Will you wave it in the air?

Leader: Will you follow the one riding on a donkey?

Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

**People: We will! We will sing. We will pay close attention. We will follow.
We will worship.**

Leader: Hosanna!

People: Hosanna in the highest!

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” WHM #218

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: The very first Palm Sunday was a day of action. It was a day of movement, of crowded city streets, and cries of “Hosanna!” – which means “Save us!” It was a day of peaceful protest and dreams for a better world. The first Palm Sunday was a day of hopeful action. So friends, on this Palm Sunday, let us join the saints before us in an act of faith. Let us begin with an act of prayer, an act of honesty, an act of transformation. Let us begin by drawing close to God and sharing the truth of our lives. Let us begin with confession. Would you join me in prayer?

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (cont)

Leader: Jesus of Nazareth,

All: we know that you spent your days teaching and healing. You walked the streets and walked on water. You laid hands on the sick and broke bread with the hungry. Your good news was not confined to conversation. It was not confined to the Temple. Your good news was an act of love, alive in the world. Holy God, we long for a faith like that. Forgive us for the times when we confine our faith to something we think about instead of something we act upon. Inspire us to love as you loved. Inspire us to act. With hope, we pray...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Friends, whether or not you wave your palm branch, whether or not you allow Jesus' actions to inspire your actions, whether or not you live out your faith in the world, God will never stop loving you. In Christ, we are forgiven and empowered for new life always. This is the good news:

All: We are claimed, loved, and held in grace, set free to be love in the world. 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

Psalms 118:1, 4 and 19-29 (NRSVUE) [page #439] +

Mark 11:1-11 (NRSVUE) [page #36]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Reflection: *Sharing our Stories - "Altars in Your Life"*

led by Pat Babel

Hymn:

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

WHM #220

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us affirm the faith that we share.

All: We believe that many years ago

a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem.

We believe that on that day

the people cried out,

longing and praying for a better world.

We believe that these longings

came from a place of deep hope,

and we believe

that hope cannot be silenced.

So we listen for the Spirit.

We sing Hosanna.

We pay attention.

For in between the silence and the song,

we believe the Spirit is speaking.

Amen.

Gathering the Prayers of the People

After each petition, we will say the following -

Leader: Holy One, in your mercy (*or the 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 and Prayer of Dedication

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: “Ride On, Ride On in Majesty”

NCH #215

[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, www.sanctifiedart.org and “Everything in between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes,” by Rev. Sarah Speed, © 2025 A Sanctified Art/Words for Worship.

The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004, CRC Publications.

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Announcements

Special thanks to Betsy Johnson for recording the music for today's worship service as Barb Moyer continues to care for her son, who is recovering from surgery.

Easter Sunday - We will be taking an all-church picture of the whole worshipping community Easter Sunday immediately following worship, to share at the first Keystone Conference meeting in June. We hope you will want to be a part of it!

Last Sunday to receive for the 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!

Congregational Meeting will be held on June 14th following worship.

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.

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 29	Palm Sunday Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm
Tues, Mar 31	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Apr 1	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Apr 2	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Maundy Thursday (C-upper room) Currently Sober (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 6:00pm 6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Apr 3	Good Friday cross walk Beginners Meeting (CE)	3pm 7pm- 8pm
Sat, Apr 4	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Apr 5	Easter Sunday Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm

Holy Week Activites

Sun, Mar 29	Palm Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
Thu, Apr 2	Maundy Thursday (C-upper room)	6 pm
Fri, Apr 3	Good Friday Cross Walk (Boyer's Mkt)	3 pm
Sun, Apr 5	Easter Sunday celebration (C)	9:30am

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

UPCOMING EVENT

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