



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

Easter Sunday

April 5, 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; 14-24 + Matthew 28:1-10

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Stuart Wells

Ushers – Derek & Marion Prince

Accompanist – Betsy Johnson

Acolyte – Wanda Druzba

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: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

People: On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

Leader: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

People: But today, we know the good news is alive and well!

Leader: The good news goes ahead of us.

People: The good news is on the loose!

Leader: The good news is out in the world, calling your name.

People: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Leader: Christ is risen, indeed!

All: Alleluia! Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn:

“Christ Arose”

WHM #256

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God. The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus *still* rose again and immediately went to work spreading God’s love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is *nothing* you can do that could keep God’s love at bay. With that good news in mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus the Christ loves, claims, and seeks us. Let us pray:

Prayer of Transformation and New Life (cont)

Leader: Gracious God,

All: we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, “Be not afraid,” but we are afraid. And we don’t know where to look. And we are worried we’ll say the wrong thing. So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We are best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias.” We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us how to embody your good news in this world. Show us how to be your Easter people. With hope for tomorrow, we pray...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Family of Faith, hear the good news: even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of “alleluias,” we belong to God. There is nothing that can keep God’s love at bay. In Christ, God meets us where we are and shows us the way, empowering us for new life, always.

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

Psalms 118:1, 4; 14-24 [page #439] + Matthew 28:1-10 [page #26]

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 Alive in the World”

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us affirm the faith that we share.

All: In the dark before dawn, we believe that God is alive.

In the midst of our grief, we believe the Spirit is at work.

In the chaos of our broken world, we believe that love is on the loose.

For no stone could keep God at bay, and no violence could keep God's love down.

So today we sing, *Alleluia!*

For somewhere in between our belief and doubt, hope lives.

Christ has died, and Christ is risen.

Thanks be to God! 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

Holy Communion

(Communion will be served by intinction at the altar rail this morning.

All are welcome to share in the meal.

The wine is the darker liquid, the grape juice lighter. The bread is gluten free.

When coming up for communion, you are invited to place a flower on the cross at the front of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to the Table

Giving Thanks

Remembering the Story

Blessing of the Meal

Sharing the Meal

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Prayer after the Meal

Leader: Let us give thanks for all we have received.

All: Loving Christ, thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies.

Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst. Thank you for this community, which reminds us who and whose we are. Thank you for this Table that brings us together. Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there. May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news. With joy and hope we pray. Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” **NCH #233**
[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 and “Everything in between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes,” by Rev. Sarah Speed, © 2025 Sanctified Art/Words for Worship, www.sanctifiedart.org

The Worship Sourcebook N.9.1.1, ©2004, CRC Publications.

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Announcements

50 DAYS OF EASTER FOOD CHALLENGE: Let's focus on our giving to the DBASD Caring Closet for the 50 days of Easter, April 5-May 24, 2026! See the list of item for what is requested by the School District. Most needs are canned fruits and vegetables, whole grain cereal, pasta, and toiletries. Our impact in the community will be reported at the 1st Annual Keystone Conference Meeting, to be held Jun 5-7, 2026.

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!

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, Apr 5	Easter Sunday Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm
Tues, Apr 6	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Apr 7	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Apr 8	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Currently Sober (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Apr 9	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Apr 10	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Apr 11	Sunday 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



Keystone

CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Covenant Association
of the Keystone Conference UCC
News from around the Association

April 5, 2026

CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

On this Sunday, as we celebrate Christ's triumph over sin and death, I extend heartfelt greetings to you and your congregation from the Covenant Association.

Over the past two months, our bulletin inserts have aimed to inform every member of UCC congregations within the Covenant Association. I hope these updates have helped you better understand how your congregation connects with the 45 other UCC communities across Berks County.

This April, I'm reaching out for your support. Just as our congregations rely on volunteers for ministry, the Association also depends on willing hands. Below are several committees along with their purposes. As you review them, consider whether your gifts and talents might serve in these areas. You'll find contact information after each committee description.

Currently, the Covenant Association is looking for a **SECRETARY**. According to our bylaws (October 27, 2019), the Secretary records minutes for all Association and Executive Committee meetings, ensures proper record-keeping for all standing committees at regular meetings, and manages relevant correspondence. The Secretary also serves as the second signatory for the checking account and is bonded through the Conference. The Executive Committee meets monthly (except August and December), and the Secretary also takes minutes at the Spring and Fall Association Gatherings, which fall on the last Sunday of April and October each year.

THE FORMATION COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM)

The Formation COM supports Members in Discernment (MID), mentors for MIDs, and oversees authorized clergy offering guidance in field education settings (licensed, commissioned). This committee determines both ordination eligibility and what qualifies as an ordainable call. They also manage scholarship funds for MIDs and decide who should enter the MID process. Contact: Mr. Carl Altenderfer at carl1801@comcast.net

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM)

This committee provides preparation, support, and oversight for ministerial leaders as granted by the United Church of Christ. Committees on Ministry act on behalf of their Association to carry out these responsibilities. Contact Rev. Steven Simpson at pastorstevensimpson@gmail.com

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee maintains accurate records of all offices and committee positions as outlined in the By-Laws, including terms and home churches. They announce open positions in the Covenant E-Blast, through emails to churches and pastors, and via individual outreach that emphasizes matching talents and personalities to each role, always seeking those called by God. Staying alert throughout the year, they look for potential candidates and strive for balance between clergy and lay members. They present candidate recommendations to the Executive Committee for approval. Contact Rev. Mary Etta Mest at maryettamest@gmail.com

Please take time to prayerfully consider how you can contribute your gifts to our Association.

Rev. Sharon S. Morris, Moderator, Covenant Association

APRIL EVENTS

Sunday, April 19, 3 pm, Installation of Rev. Tammie Wisniewski at One UCC, 1730 New Holland Road, Kenhorst, PA 19607

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



Easter Flower Dedications



Dave & Diane Johnson	In Honor of Esther Woomer In Memory of Roy Woomer In Memory of Donna Johnson Hinks In Memory of Clyde & Frances Johnson
Doug Johnson	In Memory of Clyde & Frances Johnson
Barb Kerper	In Honor of my Grandchildren In Honor of my Great-Grandson In Memory of my dad, Joseph McCalicher In Memory of Barbara & Joseph Kerper
Paul & Debbie Rahn	In Memory of Parents and Loved Ones
Susan McGovern	In Honor of the members of St. Paul's who have worked tirelessly to make Birdsboro Shares a reality
Paul & Wanda Druzba	In Honor of our families In Memory of our parents
Nancy Dragan	In Memory of Ken Dragan
Andy & Barb Headman	In Memory of Willard & Doris Harte In Memory of Edward & Grace Headman
Ruth Grant	In Memory of Mary Jane Doaty
Janeen & Tom Adil	In Memory of Susan Reedy McMath
Pastor Deb	In Honor of to the glory of God!
Barbara Moyer	In Memory of Loved Ones
Wayne Thomas	In Honor of St. Paul's