



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

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 23 + John 10:1-10

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Barb Kerper

Ushers – Dave and Diane Johnson

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

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: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us enter with thanksgiving and praise!

People: The Shepherd restores our souls, satisfies our needs, and leads us on the right path.

Leader: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us live with courage and conviction.

People: Through valleys and storms, chaos and confusion, threats and concerns, the Shepherd comforts and empowers us.

Leader: The Good Shepherd is the gate. Let us worship in the presence of the Holy One!

People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our life and we will dwell in God's presence forever.

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: "Enter, Rejoice, and Come In" NCH #73
[New Century Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray. God, who is Shepherd and Gate,...Transform us by your love, as we pray together:

All: Shepherd of our lives, like sheep, we wander and stray. We come to you for sustenance yet distance ourselves from your realm. We bite one another with words that cut and attitudes that reflect more control than care. We lie down and become stuck when you would expand our sphere of belonging. We give you thanks for not giving up on us and continuing to lead us by your Spirit. Give us courage and confidence to place our trust in you and to love one another and the world you love with our lives. We devote ourselves anew to your teaching, to community, to the sacramental life, and to prayer. Lead us in the ever full and renewed life in Christ. Amen.

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Beloved, the Shepherd cares for you and rejoices whenever you turn back to follow God's holy way. There is no detour you can take where the Shepherd cannot find you and urge you back into God's loving embrace. You are restored to community in Christ. Receive the goodness of God, whose grace is sufficient. Receive the promise of abundant life, in which the kin-dom of God is made manifest on earth. In Christ, we are forgiven and empowered 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

Psalm 23 [page #390] + **John 10:1-10** page #79]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *By the Gate*

Hymn: "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" NCH #252
[New Century Hymnal]

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

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: "Community of Christ" NCH #314
[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:
Worship Ways **By the Gate: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A** by the
Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ
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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.

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.

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 26	Sunday Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm
Tues, Apr 28	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Woman's Club	5:30pm-7pm 7pm
Wed, Apr 29	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Apr 30	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Currently Sober (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 6:30-7:30pm
Fri, May 1	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, May 2	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, May 3	Sunday Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm

This Week: Church Office Hours

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