



Happy
Mother's
Day

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

Acts 17:22-31 + John 14:15-21

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

Guest Worship Leader– Rev. Marian P. Shearer

Reader – Nancy Hughes

Ushers – Doug Johnson & Wanda Druzba

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – John Herold

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God and in Honor of

Great – Granddaughter Milia's first birthday by Jean Seivard

**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 from Psalm 66

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples

People: Let the sound of praise be heard!

Leader: For God has kept us among the living,

People: and has not let our feet slip.

Leader: For you, O God, have tested us;

People: You have tried us as silver is tried;

Leader: We went through fire and through water,

All: Yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

Opening Hymn: **“Blessed Assurance”** **NCH #473**
[New Century Hymnal]

Invitation to Confession:

Leader: It is no small thing that we are invited, again and again, in public worship, to speak our confession before God and each other. It is a great privilege. Let us begin in silence.

(Time of quietness of heart)

Now would you pray with me:

All: How can we not come to you, God of grace, with all that is in our hearts? You are the one who invites us, who listens patiently, both when we whine about small things, and when we repent with our whole hearts. You are the one who reaches out to us before we even think to reach out to you. Listen to us, we earnestly pray, as we lay before you the hesitations of our hearts, and the ills of our world. We are bold to ask this in the name of Jesus, whose Spirit guides us to pray. Amen.

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Beloved, let us go forth with the courageous belief that we can truly recognize the Holy One in the other and then act accordingly. By grace, our Creator moves us towards the transformation where acts of love, humility, curiosity, abundance, and hope are on display for all to witness. 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

Acts 17:22-31 [page #105] + **John 14:15-21** page #83]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "A Spacious Place"

Hymn:

"Christ is Alive"

W&R #312

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Christ Is Alive!

473

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age; till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Gathering the Prayers of the People

After each petition, we will say the following -

Leader: Holy One, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

The Lord’s Prayer

All: Our Father, 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:

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

NCH #403

[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

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Announcements

May Meet & Greet — Our May Meet & Greet will be held today, Sunday, May 10th, following worship. Join us!!

Church office will be closed the week beginning May 11th and will reopen the week beginning May 25th. Voice mail messages and email messages will be monitored by Nancy Hughes. Thank you Nancy!

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

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|---------------|---|---|
| Sun, May 10 | Sunday Worship (C) Meet and Greet (C) New Millennium (CE) | 9:30am <i>following worship</i> 7pm-8pm |
| Mon., May 11 | C.O.M. (CE) Boy Scouts (CE) | 10am-12pm 6pm-8pm |
| Tues, May 12 | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Woman's Club (CE) | 5:30pm-7pm 6pm-9pm |
| Wed, May 13 | Disciple Bible Study (CE) | 9:30am-10:30am |
| Thurs, May 14 | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Currently Sober (CE) | 5:30pm-7pm 6:30-7:30pm |
| Fri, May 15 | Beginners Meeting (CE) | 7pm- 8pm |
| Sat, May 16 | Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) | 8:30am – 2pm |
| Sun, May 17 | Sunday Worship (C) New Millennium (CE) | 9:30am 7pm-8pm |

This Week: Church Office Hours

The office is closed this week. Phone messages and emails will be monitored by Nancy Hughes. Thank you Nancy

This Week: Pastor Deb's Office Hours

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| 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 **Greetings!**

May 3, 2026

On Sunday, April 26, 2026, the Covenant Association met at St. John's Gernants Church in Leesport. It was a wonderful gathering, and we thank the Rev. Fran Merkel and the members of St. John's Gernants for their hospitality and refreshments. It was great to see friends, colleagues, and new faces as 70 people from around Covenant Association came together as one body.

As we worshiped God together, you could feel the Holy Spirit with us. Thanks to the Rev. Linda Kozlowski, the Rev. Selina Hamilton, the Rev. Rebecca Hoover, and the Rev. Fran Merkel for a wonderful worship experience.

With the creation of the Keystone Conference there was a lot of work that we needed to be about. The first item was to adopt The Conflict-of-Interest Policy. You can find this policy on the Covenant Association Website (covenantassociation.org). Each member of the Executive Committee will be asked to sign that they will abide by that policy. This will be done on an annual basis.

Our second item was to create the "Clergy Care Team" (CCT). Here is a short description of what this team will be about:

The Clergy Care Team serves as a vital support resource for authorized ministers, their spouses, and families within the Covenant Association. Committed to fostering well-being, the team coordinates prayer requests, stays in touch with Conference leadership, and offers both training and guidance to ensure the needs of clergy are met. With a dedication to confidentiality and a strong understanding of United Church of Christ beliefs and theology, members are respected for their administrative and visitation skills.

After much discussion about this proposal around the "term limits" that each of these folks would serve, this proposal was accepted.

The Rev. Mark Johnson, the Rev. Melissa Burkhart, the Rev. Bob Witmyer, the Rev. Mark Stryak, and the Rev. Linda Meredith were introduced as our new Clergy Care Team.

Our third item was discussion about what to do when people were not available for open positions on the Executive Committee. As you may or may not know, we have not had a Vice Moderator for one year. With concerns raised that our lay people need to know how important they are to the well-being of the Covenant Association, the following sentence was added to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Covenant Association:

“Though it is desired to alternate between authorized ministers and lay persons for the position of Moderator and Vice-Moderator, and if this is not possible, then an appropriate volunteer (authorized ministers and lay persons) may fill the role.”

One of the final items we discussed was the election of offices. The following were elected to positions in the Covenant Association:

Mrs. Alexis Ames: Standing side of the (COM)

(COM stands for the Committee on Ministry)

Rev. Domenik Ackerman to the COM

Rev. Jayme Babczak to the COM

Rev. Donald Epps to the COM

Mrs. Linda Lash to fill the unfinished term of Vice Moderator

Rev. Tammie Wisniewski as Treasurer

Mr. Rick Deerfield as Secretary

We celebrated our work and worship together by ending our gathering with communion and singing.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and everyone who helped to make this an amazing gathering! It was a beautiful day in the life of the Covenant Association.

If you missed this gathering, we will be gathering again on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at Huff's Church, 540 Conrad Road, Alburtis, PA. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** Spread the word in your congregation!

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Covenant Association, feel free to reach out to your Executive Committee and we will be happy to meet with you.

In the June insert, we would like to begin to highlight our churches in the Covenant Association. PLEASE send one or two pictures of your congregation and include the exciting things that are happening. Send to Rev. Sharon Morris at revsmorris@gmail.com.