



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

Romans 7:15-25a + Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Nancy Hughes

Ushers – Pat Babel & Nancy Hughes

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Pat Babel

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in Honor of the 52nd anniversary of
Barb & Barry Kerper

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: In joy and gladness, enter the presence of the Sovereign One who rules and reigns over all creation.

People: We come to worship the Sovereign One, whose voice is powerful and gracious, loving and challenging, compassionate and convicting.

Leader: In joy and gladness, follow the path of the Embodied One.

People: We come to worship the Embodied One, whose voice models for us what to say and how to live.

Leader: In joy and gladness, receive the fresh wind of the Spirit, who ignites our hearts and connects us to one another.

People: We come to worship the Holy One, whose voice gives wisdom, discernment, comfort and affirmation.

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

NCH #593

[The New Century Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray. God of all nations and all peoples, bless us as we gather in your name. Open us to be vessels in building your kin-dom and spreading the good news of life and liberty. May we drink from the well of your abundance. May our cups overflow with your love. May our hearts burn for your justice. Be with us in this time and place, and transform us by your grace as we pray together:

All: Gracious One, where do we begin? We come before you from different perspectives. Some come in a spirit of celebration. Others bring lament and despair. All of us benefit from the power of transformed lives, individually, relationally, and communally. We pray in the assurance that new life is possible. We ask for strength, courage, and persistence to seek your kingdom, your peace, and your justice in any and all circumstances and for all people and creation and so we confess...

You call us to do justice, and we explain that justice is complicated. You ask us to love mercy, and we counter that a show of strength is necessary. You invite us to walk humbly with you, and we struggle to recognize you in our neighbors, in the dispossessed, in the poor and hungry places of our own hearts. We confess we have failed to summon the courage and compassion required by your call. We have treated hospitality as an option and kinship as a choice, instead of as the center of our life together. We have claimed your name, yet rejected your way. Forgive us, we pray...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Friends, hear the good news: God's gift is love that liberates, hope that inspires, grace that transforms. Each of us alone and all of us together are forgiven and set free.

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

Romans 7:15-25a

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

¹⁶ "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' ¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *Free to Love*

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Affirmation of Faith
An Affirmation of Christian Vocation in Civic Life

Leader: People of God, through baptism, you are chosen and named as God's beloved.

You have received the gift of Christian vocation, a holy calling lived out in various dimensions of your life, your relationships and communities, your work and your rest. Daily and richly we live in the promises of baptism, sustained by grace to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Leader: I ask you, therefore: Will you endeavor to pattern your life on Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others?

All: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Will you strive to pursue the common good in public life, nurturing mutual care among neighbors near and far?

All: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Will you pledge to bear witness in word and action, commending what is true and right, renouncing what is unjust and harmful, and working to mend what is flawed?

All: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Leader: Sovereign God, your Son Jesus lived within the structures of society even as he spoke truth to those in power and challenged systems of oppression. Give to your people courage, patience, and vision in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Empower us all in our Christian vocation to be courageous disciples and responsible citizens. Grant that our life in the public realm be grounded in love for our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and respect for the common life we share, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

Gathering the Prayers of the People

After each petition, we will say the following -

Leader: Holy One..

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.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Doxology

[The New Century Hymnal- tune #780, words #778]

(please rise in body or in spirit as the doxology begins)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

Offering Dedication

Holy Communion

(Communion will be served by intinction today. All are welcome to share in the meal. Please come forward as you feel moved. Receive the bread and the cup. Take the time that you need to eat and drink as you receive the elements, then return to your seat. Also, if you prefer, the bread and cup can be brought to you. The wine is the darker liquid, the grape juice lighter. The bread is gluten free.)

Invitation to the Table

Praise and Thanks

Remembering the Story

Leader: On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Leader: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Leader: Remembering, therefore, Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime, Christ's resurrection that buries death, and Christ's ascension to rule with love forever, we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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: We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us, now and forever. Amen.

Sending Hymn: “This is My Song”

NCH #591

[The New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:

“Fourth of July Pastoral Care Package,” ©2026 Illustrated Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

Worship Ways, “Drink: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Year A,” by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, ©2026.

Communion Liturgy and Affirmation of Faith adapted from:

“Worship Resources: US Semiquincentennial, July 2026,” by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, from Sundays and Seasons, ©2026 Augsburg Fortress.

+++++

Announcements

Countdown for the church picnic. It will be on July 12th at 11:30AM at Rustic Picnic Area, Pavilion #4!!

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

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, July 5	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Jul 7	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Woman's Club (CE)	7pm
Wed, Jul 8	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thurs, Jul 9	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Jul 10	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Jul 11	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Jul 12	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	Church Picnic (Rustic Picnic pav #4)	11:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm

This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:00am-1:00pm

This Week: Pastor Deb’s Office Hours

Monday	Pastor's Sabbath Day; available for emergencies only
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!

July 5, 2026

Hello, I'd like to share a few reflections on the Covenant Association from the perspective of a layperson.

I joined Epler's UCC in Leesport about 25 years ago. It didn't take long before I became active in the life of the church and eventually served on Consistory. I still remember the night our pastor mentioned an upcoming Association meeting and said Epler's needed delegates. I had no idea what that meant — and I knew immediately I had no interest in finding out.

But the more deeply I became involved at Epler's, the more I realized that being a member of the church is bigger than what happens within our own walls. Our mission teams were doing meaningful work in the community, and that stirred something in me. I began to wonder about the wider church — the Association that connected us to other congregations.

In 2016, when the Covenant Association was formed through the merger of the Reading, East Berks, and Heidelberg Associations, I decided to attend its first meeting. That gathering changed everything for me. It opened my eyes to the way the Association brings local UCC churches together, and it awakened a desire in me to belong to something larger. I discovered that my voice mattered — not only at Epler's, but in the wider church.

Through the people I met in the Covenant Association, I learned that I had gifts I hadn't recognized in myself. Others helped me nurture those gifts, and none of that would have happened if I hadn't shown up at that first meeting.

I believe every one of you reading this has gifts that can help share God's love in powerful ways. The Covenant Association helped me discover and develop mine, and it may do the same for you. Serving within the Association — and now within the wider life of the new Keystone Conference — has been a blessing that has enriched my faith and my life.

So, I invite you to reflect:

- What questions do you have about the wider church?
- How might the Covenant Association help strengthen relationships among our congregations and members?
- What gifts do you feel called to share — or what gifts might you want to explore?

The theme of the Keystone Conference's Annual Meeting was "Joy at the Table Together." We welcome you to join us as we bring that joy to the table of the Covenant Association — and as we continue to expand that table for all

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

May you feel the blessings of God's love in your life,

Rick W. Deerfield

Epler's UCC

Covenant Association Executive Committee Secretary

Keystone Conference Transitional Board of Directors

rickdeer@rocketmail.com

REMINDER:

The Fall Association gathering will take place on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at Huff's Church, 540 Conrad Road, Alburtis, PA. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!** Spread the word in your congregation! Your Executive Committee stands ready to answer any concerns or questions that you or your congregation may have. Please feel free to contact us at covenantassociation@yahoo.com

REQUESTS!!!!

1. Please send details about your church events taking place in July or August 2026 so we can include them in this newsletter. This will help promote your event to members across our 43 congregations. Send submissions to Rev. Sharon Morris at covenantassociation@yahoo.com by June 25, 2026. Thank you!