



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 119:105-112 + Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Lenette Wells

Ushers – Lenette & Stuart Wells

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Wanda Druzba

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in thanks for the blessing of our family
by Wanda & Paul Druzba

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: God' word is a lamp to our feet and a light for our path.

All: Illuminate our footsteps, O God, that we might walk in the light of your goodness and truth.

Leader: Give us life, O Lord, according to your word.

All: Send your Spirit to breathe new life into our minds and hearts.

Leader: Accept our offerings of praise and teach us your way.

All: We offer our praise to you. We offer this time to you. We offer our lives to you.

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth" WHM #76
[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray. Loving God, you create life in us and all around us. Open us to receive the gifts of your world and your word that we may be not just hearers of the word, but doers also. Transform us by your grace, as we pray together:

All: Gracious and Loving God, we incline our hearts toward you, but the concerns of the world and challenges of daily living pull us away. Keep us grounded in your promises, your purposes, your power, and your presence. Reorient us on the road of liberation, belonging, and communal care so that not only do we receive the gift of transformation, we partner with others in your work of making all things new. Lead us back to you, O God. Lead us to a life immersed in and nurtured by your Word and Spirit...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Friends, we claim what the apostle Paul teaches. Hear the good news: the Spirit of God dwells in you. You are forgiven and free! There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

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 119:105-112

- 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
- 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.
- 107 I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
- 108 Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.
- 109 I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.
- 111 Your decrees are my heritage forever;
they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes
forever, to the end.

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture (cont)

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 Let anyone with ears listen!" 18 "Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *Holy Crap*

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Affirmation of Faith
(New Century Hymnal #887)

Leader: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

All: We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

United Church of Canada, 1980

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

Sending Hymn: “Now Thank We All Our God” WHM #333
[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:

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Worship Ways, "Growing God's Word: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday after Pentecost," by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, ©2017. Local Church Ministries, Faith Formation Ministry Team, United Church of Christ. All publishing rights reserved.

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

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Announcements

Church picnic is today, July 12th at 11:30am. It will be at Rustic Picnic Area, Pavilion #4!! Come join us!!

God Is on the Move! - Mission Trip Birdsboro & Beyond starts with their kickoff off on Sunday, July 12th at 2:00pm at St. Mark's Lutheran church sanctuary. Good works like this need to be blessed by good prayer. That's where the entire congregation of St. Paul's comes in. Whether or not you're actively involved in the mission trip, you are invited and encouraged to pray for it.

Summer Heat is here!! We will continue to worship on Sunday's at 9:30am at the Christian Education building of St Paul's to keep cool and comfy with air conditioning. The address is 235 W 2nd St., Birdsboro. This will continue until August 30th.

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 12	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	Church Picnic (Rustic Picnic pav #4)	11:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Jul 14	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Woman's Club (CE)	7pm
Thurs, Jul 16	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Jul 17	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Jul 18	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Jul 19	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	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