



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

Genesis 28:10-19a + Romans 8:12-25 +

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

Guest Worship Leader– Pat Babel

Reader – Wanda Druzba

Ushers – Dave & Diane Johnson

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – John Herold

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in memory of Clyde Johnson by his family

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

(inspired by Genesis 28, Psalm 139 and Romans 8)

Leader: The Holy One is in this place! Do we know it?

All: The Holy One has searched and known us, our path, and all our ways.

Leader: The Holy One is in this place! Such knowledge is too wonderful!

All: Wherever we go, Spirit goes with us! We cannot flee for God is there!

Leader: The Holy One is in this place! Spirit bears witness with our spirit, and we gather and wait in hope.

All: The Holy One is with us. Praise God!

Opening Hymn: “In Christ There Is No East or West” WHM #671

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Invitation to Confession

All: Righteous God, test us and stretch us, strengthen us in your truth and justice, fortify us with resolve and power so that we might be the people you have called us to be. Holy One, even beyond forgiveness, we seek transformation. Renew our minds, open our hearts, and release our hands to repair, reconcile, and restore in your name. Keep us from being the cause of suffering. Equip us to be agents of healing. Make us attentive to your presence. Attune us to your will. Lead us on the path you have paved before us so that the grace we receive will sow seeds of redemption and healing in the world. Amen.

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Offspring of the Divine, live in your power and purpose as beneficiaries of the new covenant and conspirators of God's liberating work and impact in the world. Receive God's forgiveness and move beyond shame and judgment to new life and right relationships with the Holy One and neighbor.

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Hymn: **“O for a Closer Walk with God”** **WHM #561**
[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture

Genesis 28:10-19a

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12 And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, 14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. 15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” 16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!” 17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” 18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. 19 He called that place Bethel

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

Romans 8:12-25

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— 13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. 18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in [\[c\]](#) hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

24 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, 25 but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ 28 He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ 29 But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *Where He Leads Me*

Hymn:

“Where He Leads Me”

WHM #552

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi (Prayer for Peace)

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. 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.**

Offering

Leader: Holy One, may these gifts reflect our trust in you and your provision.
Magnify them for your purpose and grant us discernment to be caretakers
of the resources entrusted to us. Amen.

(please rise in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: **“Holy Ground”** **WHM #547**
[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Benediction

Leader: In God, promises are not contained. They overflow.
Therefore, as you go from this time of communal worship
Return as participants in the communal witness
spread the overwhelming love of God
To spread the overarching peace of God
And to spread the overcoming hope of God
Like good seeds, sowing and planting a future
That will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God .

Postlude

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Announcements

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 19	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Jul 21	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Woman's Club (CE)	7pm
Thurs, Jul 23	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Jul 24	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Jul 25	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Jul 26	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