



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

Isaiah 55:1-5 + Matthew 14:13-21

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Andy Headman

Ushers – Barb & Andy Headman

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Wanda Druzba

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in memory of Loved Ones and in Honor of the Family,
by Esther Rimby

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 day breaks

All: and God does not let us go.

Leader: The hour calls

All: and God does not let us go.

Leader: The evening falls

All: and God holds us fast.

Leader: Let us turn to God in worship-

All: God, who never turns from us.

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: “Morning Has Broken”

WHM #74

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray. Holy One, we give thanks for this new morning! ...Hold us securely by your Spirit and transform us by your grace, as we pray together:

Leader: Loving God,

All: we long to reflect your goodness in the world. Yet, the way of wickedness is not far from us. Fortify us in your word and drench us with your compassion, so that we may find the courage to acknowledge the harm we have allowed and the pain we have caused. Empower us to make things right with our neighbors and within ourselves. Let your grace and mercy liberate us to be agents of repair and reconciliation in our families, communities, and the world...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Friends, receive God's transformative and liberating grace. In Christ, we are made new, moment by moment and day by day.

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

Isaiah 55:1-5

Hear, everyone who thirsts;

come to the waters;

and you who have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread

and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

5 Now you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

Matthew 14:13-21

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." 18 And he said, "Bring them here to me." 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *"When Next to Nothing is More than Enough"*

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Affirmation of Faith
UCC Statement of Faith
(New Century Hymnal #885)

**ALL: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,
our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to
yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and
races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and
resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you,
Forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. 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

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

Doxology

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

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.

Prayer of 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 fruit of the vine is grape juice. The bread is gluten free.)

Invitation to the Table

Gathering Prayer

Remembering the Story

Blessing of the Meal

Sharing the Meal

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Prayer after the Meal

Leader: Let us give thanks.

Abundant God, thank you for filling us at your table, for entrusting us with your riches and sending us out to share the bounty with a world hungry for your love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Sending Hymn: “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” NCH #347

[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Call to Worship adapted from:

Worship Ways, “Struggle and Blessing,” by the Rev. Kaji S. Dousa, ©2020 Justice and Local church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ. All rights reserved.

Remaining liturgy adapted from:

Worship Ways, “Wrestling: Service Prayers for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost Year A” by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, ©2026, www.ucc.org (made possible through our gifts to OCWM – Our Churches Wider Mission)

Communion Liturgy adapted from:

Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living, ed. by Mary Luti and written by Marilyn Pagan-Banks of the God is Still Speaking Writers’ Group, www.thepilgrimpress.com, ©2023, pp 78-82.

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Announcements

Join us for a Community Walk! Sunday, Sept 20th with a picnic at 12:30pm and the walk at 2:00pm. The walk is a 3 mile loop through Rustic Park and around the gorgeous Birdsboro Reservoir. Funds will go to support the programs of Hopewell Love Community Services. It is sponsored by Hopewell Love and the Southeast Berks Ministerium. For more information go to: hopewelllovecs@gmail.com or 610-582-8167, opt 3. Scan QR code to register and donate. See Wanda Druzba for participant walkers.



Office will be closed the week of Aug 3rd and will open on Aug 25th. However, the pastor will in the office Wed., Aug 5th and Wed., Aug 12th.

Meet & Greet: Our August Meet & Greet will be held on Sunday, Aug 9th , following worship. Join us!

Altar Flowers: There are openings for August for 8/16, 8/23 and 8/30. If you'd like to sponsor flowers to honor or memorialize a loved one, see Wanda Druzba at church or give her a call at 610-385-3382.

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!!.

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.

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, Aug 2	Sunday Worship (CE)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Aug 4	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Woman's Club (CE)	7pm
Wed, Aug 5	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30 am
Thu, Aug 6	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Aug 7	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Aug 8	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Aug 9	Sunday Worship (CE)	9:30am
	Meet and Greet (CE)	<i>(following worship)</i>
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm

This Week: Church Office Hours

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

****Office will be closed the week of Aug 3rd and will open on Aug 25th. ****

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!**

Aug 2, 2026

Laity Lunches

I Know - you think you have enough friends.

I Know - you don't have time for more friends.

But . . . think that you may be missing an opportunity to do something you like to do that would help other people as well as your relationship with God.

Now what excuse can we use to justify not spreading our wings?

Besides, (is that a word?)

Besides, God may have a friend waiting for you in that other UCC church near you or on the other side or up and down of Berks County.

I know – you ask what will you do with another friend? God knows!

Come and see! Come to the table! The Laity Table.

Find us. We move around. We have already had two lunches—one in Reading at Esperanza; one in Breezy Corner at the Pour House. We are headed for The Red Plate Restaurant in Wernersville on July 30. If you saw a notice on the Covenant E-Blast, you may have joined us a few days ago.

Some of our conversations are about how we do things in our own congregation – sharing ideas and practices. Some of the conversations are about our beliefs. But would you believe the big topic at one meal was car shows and antique vehicles in general. Honestly, we had to watch for the smallest opening to get our comments into the conversation.

(cont)

So what good are these lunches if we are just chit-chatting? Well, God is with us. God is listening and even guiding the conversation. God is pleased with the new relationships. Who knows what could burst from these relationships. Just think, how can we try to have churches do things together? Fun things. Serious things like mission projects or baseball teams (did I say serious?). Who knows! Even Bible study!

We will be announcing the locations on the Covenant E-Blast. So far, we are choosing the last Thursday of the month to meet at 11:30 a.m. We each pay for our own meal. If that is a problem for you, please tell me when you register.

Reservations for a place at the table shall be sent to Rev. Mary Etta Mest at mestme@aol.com or 610-659-2775. Pastors are welcome if you are curious, especially if you bring a lay person with you.

Blessings,

Rev. Mary Etta Mest, Chair of Nominating Committee

REMINDER:

1. **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!
2. **COMBINED CHOIR AGAIN!!!** Our combine choir in 2025 was such a success that we want to have another! We are asking for musicians and members of your church choirs to come together on Sunday, October 25 at our Fall Association gathering for a combined choir. We will be singing two songs this time!
PLEASE email Sharon Morris with the number of folks you plan on sending. We will get the music to you! Choir members will be asked to register as choir when we open registration. More info to come!
3. Deadline for any church announcements for the September bulletin insert is August 17. Send to covenantassociation@yahoo.com
4. If your church has any questions about how the Covenant Association can be of service, please contact the Executive Committee! The Rev. Sharon Morris is currently the moderator at revsmorris@gmail.com.