



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

1 Kings 19:9-18 + Matthew 14:22-33

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Nancy Hughes

Ushers – Diane & Dave Johnson

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Doug Johnson

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in memory of Debbie Miller by her sister 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

Leader: Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

All: We need this kind of hope.

Leader: Come, worship the Holy One who meets us where we are.

All: We come seeking God, who lifts us up.

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn:

“On Eagle's Wings”

W&R #438

Refrain in NCH #775

On Eagle's Wings

438

Unison G D/F# G

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a - bide in his
 (2) snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, 7 and fa - mine will
 3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, nor the ar - row that

D/F# F Dm

shad - ow for life, say to the Lord, "My ref - uge, my
 bring you no fear, un - der his wings your ref - uge, his
 flies by day; though thou - sands fall a - bout you, 1

F Gm Asus A Refrain D

Rock in whom I trust.
 faith - ful - ness your shield. And he will raise you up on
 near you it shall not come.

Em A7 D D7/F#

ea - gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the

G A Bm F#m Em7 A Dues D D.C.

sun and hold you in the palm of his hand, 2 The

Fine

WORDS and MUSIC: Michael Joncas (1951 -)

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray...

And transform us by your grace, as we pray together:

All: Merciful God, as our faith falters and we realize that we have yet again forgotten to trust you, we confess that we have turned our eyes to the challenges of this life, lost our focus on you, and are sinking. You ask us not to fear, yet our minds and hearts are filled with fear and worry and what-ifs. The winds of life make us weary. Waves of struggle wash over us, and we fail to rely on you. Forgive us and help us to see your outstretched hand, ready to pull us to safety...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Like Jesus extended a hand to Peter, who felt as if he was drowning, so God extends a hand of mercy and grace to us, and pulls us to safety.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus the Christ, we are forgiven, set free 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

1 Kings 19:9-18

9 At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 10 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." 15 Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." 28 Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Hymn: "Be Still and Know"

W&R #450

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Be Still and Know

450

1 Be still and know that I am God,
 2 The Lord Al - might - y is our God,
 3 In you, O Lord, we put our trust.

be still and know that I am God,
 the Lord Al - might - y is our God,
 In you, O Lord, we put our trust.

be still and know that I am God.
 the Lord Al - might - y is our God.
 In you, O Lord, we put our trust.

Sermon: *The Eye of the Storm*

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Affirmation of Faith

NCH #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: “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less” NCH #403
[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:

Book of Worship © 1986 by permission of the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

Lectionary Liturgy, “Year A: Season after Pentecost, Proper 14” ©2017 www.ScriptureEcho.com

Worship Ways, “God Lifts Us Up: Service Prayers for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost,” by the Rev. Dr. Bob Gross, ©2020 Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ. All publishing rights reserved.

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Announcements

Pastor Deb will be away from Aug 17th – Aug 31st. Rev. Marian Shearer will be on-call for pastoral emergencies. Please contact the church office, if needed. Or call Doug Johnson at 610-633-9879 or contact Stuart Wells. Stuart is available from Aug 24th – Aug 31st.

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 Today! Sunday, Aug 9th, following worship. Join us!

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.



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