



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

Exodus 3: 1-15 + Romans 12: 9-21 + Matthew 16: 21-28
Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Guest Worship Leader– Liz Brunton

Reader – Janeen Adil

Ushers – Lenette & Stuart Wells

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – John Herold

Flower Dedication

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: There is holy ground beneath our feet, though we did not know it.

People: God draws near, even in the most ordinary places.

Leader: Come with reverence. Come with wonder.

All: Let us worship the God who is present here!

Opening Hymn: “The God of Abraham Praise”

WHM #26

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us bring to God our open and changeable hearts and pray our confessions together.

All: Merciful God, we confess we have not followed the ways you taught us through your son, our savior. We have insisted on our own way. We have placed tradition as more important than relationship. We have clung to our ways because it is too hard to change. We have failed to see the ones who have been hurt, or we have dismissed them. Forgive our selfish ways, and call us into the ways of love, in which traditions deepen our relationships, and we work together to build up Your church, open to the ways that relationships with others encourage us to change and grow. Help us to be Your body, all different members but joined together. In your name we pray. Amen

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Let us affirm God's grace together.

People: God sets our feet on the right paths when we go astray. God restores us when we fall and lifts us up. We do not walk this journey alone. God is with us, and we are together as companions on this road, for we are the body of Christ. We are not alone. We are children of God and part of Christ's body forever. Amen!

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture

Exodus 3: 1-15

3 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." 5 Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." 6 He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9 The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 12 He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." 13 But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.' " 15 God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Romans 12: 9-21

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18 If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." 20 Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16: 21-28

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. 22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must

never happen to you.” 23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 27 “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28 Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Hymn:

“Holy Ground”

(sing twice)

WHM #547

[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Gathering the Prayers of the People

After each petition, we will say the following -

Leader: Holy One, friend of those in need, you Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

A Time of Sharing

Leader: Redeeming sustainer, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name.

All: Amen, dear God. 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 and Dedication

Prayer of Dedication:

**All: Holy One, we offer our gifts to you this day, knowing that you
will bless them and us. May our offerings remind us of God's love for
the whole world. Amen**

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: "Love Lifted Me" WHM #642
[Worship His Majesty Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

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Announcements

Congregational Meeting — September 13

Mark your calendars! A special congregational meeting will be held after the service on September 13 to discuss the placement of the American flag. Consistory has also been working on a survey form to record congregants' preferences. The form will be distributed to the congregation and then returned to Consistory, providing a fair, clear, and measurable way to record the opinions of our congregants. Looking to hear from everyone! Stuart

Today is the last Sunday that we will be worshipping at the Christian Education building of St Paul's. Join us next Sunday, Sept 6th at 9:30am in our church's sanctuary located at 300 W 1st St., Birdsboro.

Our Daily Bread for September/October/November 2026 has arrived! Pick up your copy today!

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!!.

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.



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!

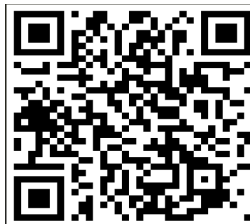
Caring Closet starting for 2025-2026 school year

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 & more

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 30	Sunday Worship (CE)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Sept 1	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Woman's Club (CE)	7pm
Wed, Sept 2	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30 am
Thu, Sept 3	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Sept 4	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Sept 5	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
	Birdsboro's Big 250 th Bash/parade	9:00am
	Birdsboro's Big 250 th Bash/event	3pm-8pm
Sun, Sept 6	Sunday Worship (CE)	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!**

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.