



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

Romans 12:9-21 + Matthew 16:24-25

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Lenette Wells

Ushers – Pat Babel & Wanda Druzba

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Wanda Druzba

Flower Dedication

Flower Dedication – To the Glory of God by Anna Oister
in memory of husband Kenneth Oister

*"There is happiness in knowing that my heart will always be a place
where I can hold you and keep you near me."*

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

(Introduction to the Worship Series)

Leader: This morning we are beginning a new worship series called “Come to the Table.” ...

All: *(Theme song – to be sung after introduction)*

**Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace!**

Call to Worship

Leader: We know that there is a place for us at this table.

All: Our hearts are filled with gratitude!

Leader: We notice that there is a place for those not like us.

All: We come ready to open our hearts beyond their current size.

Leader: We humbly take our seat.

All: We look into each face and know the presence of Jesus!

Leader: Let us turn to God in worship-

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn:

“I Come with Joy”

NCH #349

[New Century Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: In Romans 12, Paul writes, “Hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good.”
As we approach God in honest confession, we do so holding fast to what is good, and offering to God all the rest. Let us pray together:

All: Loving God, we confess that our love is not always genuine. We see evil and wring our hands. We do not consistently seek to serve you. We turn our backs on strangers who could benefit from our hospitality. We do not pray enough for our enemies. We associate with our own kind, fearing the “other.” We relish fantasies of revenge. For all this, and for all that burdens our hearts today, O God, we seek your mercy...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: God has overcome evil with good and offers us grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are set free and empowered for new life always!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

We Listen For God’s Word: Scripture

Romans 12:9-21 *(The Message)*

9-10 Love from the center of who you are; don’t fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle. 11-13 Don’t burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don’t quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

14-16 Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they’re happy; share tears when they’re down. Get along with each other; don’t be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don’t be the great somebody.

Romans 12:9-21 (cont)

17-19 Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it." 20-21 Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

Matthew 16:24-25 (*The Message*)

24-26 Then Jesus went to work on his disciples. "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. What kind of deal is it to get everything you want but lose yourself? What could you ever trade your soul for?

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "The Table of Hospitality"

(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

Be present at our table, Lord,

Be here and everywhere adored;

From your all-bounteous hands these gifts

We offer you with gratitude.

Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

(Communion will be served in the pews today. All are welcome to share in the meal. The ushers will bring the bread and fruit of the vine to you. Please serve the person sitting next to you, until all in your pew are served, then pass the tray back to the usher. Hold the bread until everyone has been served. Consume when the pastor invites everyone to eat together. Do the same for the wine/grape juice. The wine is the darker liquid, the grape juice lighter. The bread is gluten free.)

Invitation to the Table

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: Friends, God is ever present with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Turn to the people around you and tell them this news: "The peace of Christ is always with you!"

People: "The peace of Christ is always with you!"

**Come to the table of peace,
Come to the table of peace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of peace.**

Leader: Listen! ...The body breathes in together...and out. As close as breath, the Holy is present with us, reminding us that there is always room for us, room for all.

...So we lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to God!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Holy Living One because it is the right thing to do, not only now, but always, for "always" is when God is with us.

Leader: I invite you to open both palms...

Leader: And so, we open our eyes, our hands and our hearts to your will for us as told to us through your prophets. We join our voices together praising you along with all who do, have ever done so and ever will do so, as we say together:

**Holy, Holy, Holy God!
Everywhere we see your Glory!
Hosanna in the highest!
...and the widest...
...and the deepest...
...place in our hearts.**

Leader: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God...

Leader: Listen people!...The Lord is with you. He healed the sick, fed the hungry...and sat down at the table and ate with especially those others considered “unworthy.” Let us remind ourselves by saying, “The Lord is present with everyone.”

All: The Lord is present with everyone.

**Come to the table of love.
Come to the table of love.
This is God’s table, it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.**

Remembering the Story

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, and saying: “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “This cup is the new covenant. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**Come to the table of love.
Come to the table of love.
This is God’s table, it’s not yours or mine.
Come to the table of love.**

Leader: Let us be a community of messengers, proclaiming and reminding each other and all creation that:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Blessing of the Meal

Sharing the Meal

Leader: Beloved, I invite you to make a point of connection with those around you by laying a hand on a shoulder, holding hands, even simply extending your hands toward others, whatever is most comfortable for you. ...By your spirit we are one with Christ, the host of this table, and one with each other. Let this joy be seen in us outside of this place. It is with great thanks that all God's people say,

All: Amen.

**Come to the table of joy.
Come to the table of joy.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of joy.**

(after sharing communion please rise, in body or in spirit)

Prayer after the Meal

Leader: Let us give thanks.

All: As we have been shown the hospitality of Jesus, may we take on the mantle of hospitality in our own lives, eating and drinking and inviting others to the welcome table. At this table, we have been fed. We have been nourished. We have been transformed. Thank you, God! Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Come to the Table"

[Worship Design Studio]

♩ = ♩³♩

Come to the Table of Grace

♩ = 84

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal melody line and a bass accompaniment line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line.

System 1: Chords: F, C7, F, F7/C. Lyrics: Come to the ta - ble of grace.

System 2: Chords: Bb, C, F, C. Lyrics: Come to the ta - ble of grace.

System 3: Chords: F, Bb/F, F7, Bb, Bb7. Lyrics: This is God's ta - ble, it's not yours or mine.

System 4: Chords: F/C, C7, F, F. Lyrics: Come to the ta - ble of grace.

Additional stanzas: 2. peace 3. love 4. joy 5. hope

WORDS and MUSIC: Barbara Hamm

TABLE OF GRACE
7.7.10.7.

Words and Music © 2008 Hope Publishing Company

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:

Worship Design Studio, "Come to the Table: The Table of Hospitality," ©www.worshipdesignstudio.com/table

With additions from: Lectionary Liturgy, "Year A, Season after Pentecost Proper 17 (22)," ©Scripture Echo.

Worship Ways, "Standing on Holy Ground: Service Prayers for the 13 th Sunday after Pentecost" by the Rev. Kaji S.Dousa ©2020, Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ.

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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

Meet & Greet – Sunday, Sept 13. Come join us for food and fellowship.

Email Spoof Warning from Keystone Conference from 08/24/26

As many of you know, scammers have become more sophisticated and can create email addresses spoofing people you may know. It's especially common among clergy emails, as they are people we trust.

I am receiving reports that Transitional Executive Conference Minister Carrie Call's email has been spoofed. If you received an email from Carrie (or any of our staff) but the email address is NOT "first name" @keystoneucc.org, (or via Constant Contact, like this one) it is not from one of us! Many times these emails will ask if you can do a favor, and if you engage with them they usually ask the recipient if they can buy gift cards or items from Amazon and then they would be paid back.

Email Spoof Warning from Keystone Conference from 08/24/26 (cont)

Please do not reply or engage with this person, just report it as spam or delete. If you did purchase gift cards and give them the numbers, please contact your bank ASAP to see if you can dispute the charges.

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.



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

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, Sept 6	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Sept 8	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Sept 9	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thu, Sept 10	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Sept 11	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Sept 12	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Sept 13	Sunday Worship (CE)	9:30am
	Meet & Greet (C)	following worship
	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