



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
A welcoming Christ-centered community...

16th Sunday after Pentecost (A)

Sept 13, 2026
9:30am Worship

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 13:8-14 + Matthew 18:15-20

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

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Barb Headman

Ushers – Andy & Barb Headman

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Doug Johnson

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)

(Barb play "Come to the Table of Love," then we sing)

**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 come to the table not only for food, but for friendship and family.

All: We are here to be nourished in body, mind, spirit and relationship.

Leader: We come with curiosity and compassion.

All: We invite everyone to join in the feast.

Leader: We are all part of one human family.

All: We are united in love.

Leader: Let us turn to God in worship-

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: "Lord, I Want to be a Christian" NCH #454
[New Century Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray... Keep our hearts tuned to your hopes and promises as we pray together:

Leader: Holy One,

All: Scripture reminds us that, “Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.” Forgive us for those moments when we had the opportunity to choose love and did not. Forgive us for the days we kept silent when love required our voice. Forgive us for the instances when we could have extended grace and mercy and, instead, chose bitterness and resentment. Forgive us for the times when we have been hard to love and failed to appreciate the love given to us. Transform our lives and our hearts into vessels that reflect your love in the world...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Beloved, rest in the love of God that is faithful and true. Know that love may be replicated through each of us toward one another and our neighbors. Be assured that the reservoir of love never runs dry and is amplified the more you draw from it. Let your love flow and the grace of God will sustain and strengthen you.

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 13:8-14 (*The Message*)

8-10 Don’t run up debts, except for the huge debt of love you owe each other. When you love others, you complete what the law has been after all along. The law code—don’t sleep with another person’s spouse, don’t take someone’s life, don’t take what isn’t yours, don’t always be wanting what you don’t have, and any other “don’t” you can think of—finally adds up to this: Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can’t go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love.

Romans 13:8-14 (cont)

11-14 But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day- by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!

Matthew 18:15-20 (The Message)

15-17 “If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell him—work it out between the two of you. If he listens, you’ve made a friend. If he won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he still won’t listen, tell the church. If he won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love. 18-20 “Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there.” 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!

Hymn: “As We Gather at Your Table” (verse 1) NCH #332
[New Century Hymnal]

**As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story 'til we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.**

Sermon: “The Table of Love”

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

Sending Hymn: “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

[Worship and Rejoice Hymnal #595]

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They'll Know We Are Christians 595

Unison

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.
 And all praise to Christ Je - sus, his on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.
 And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:

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

With additions from:

Worship Ways, "There Among Them: Service Prayers for the 15 th Sunday after Pentecost Year A" by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. ©2026.

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Announcements

Congregational Meeting — September 13

Today is a special congregational meeting that will be held after the service 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 – Today, 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 13	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	Congregation Meeting+Meet & Greet (C)	following worship
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Sept 15	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Consistory Meeting (CE)	4:00pm
Wed, Sept 16	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
	Worship Committee (CE)	10:00am
Thu, Sept 17	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Sept 18	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Sept 19	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Sept 20	Sunday Worship (CE)	9:30am
	Community Walk(rustic park)	12:30pm
	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