



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

18th Sunday after Pentecost (A)

Sept 27, 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 14:1-12 (The Message) + Matthew 18:21-22 (The Message)
Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Guest Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill
Reader – Doug Johnson
Ushers – Nancy Hughes & Wanda Druzba
Accompanist – Barb Moyer
Acolyte – Wanda Druzba

Flower Dedication

“To the Glory of God in memory of Donna Johnson Hinks
on what would have been her 71st birthday on September 27, by her family”

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)

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

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

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!

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather today to listen, to learn, and to love.

All: We are ready to share and to hear what others have to say.

Leader: Though we are all different, we yearn to find a mutual understanding.

All: We are standing on common ground.

Leader: We take our seat at the Table of Peace.

All: We know that God is already here.

Leader: Let us turn to God in worship-

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” W&R #587

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**1 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

Refrain:

**O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

**2 Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

Refrain:

**O Master, grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.**

**3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: Holy One,

You have given us companions in life: family, friends, and neighbors. As the Letter to the Romans reminds us, "...we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." Help us live in ways that reflect your goodness, righteousness, and truth. Help us to love our neighbors with the fullness of shared life, accountability, and community. Help us repair what has been damaged, redeem what has been lost, and restore what has been broken. Help us to see what we are missing. Help us to find a way forward together, trusting in your goodness and grace...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Beloved, God blesses us with the gift of accountability so that we need not settle for forgiveness that trivializes harm, ignores the need for repair, and leaves relationships fractured. God has given us accountability so that we may be transformed both individually and collectively, offender and offended, for restoration, reconciliation, and righteousness. Receive both the gift of courage for accountability and the grace of forgiveness, through Christ who forgives and empowers us 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 14:1-12 (The Message)

14 Welcome with open arms fellow believers who don't see things the way you do. And don't jump all over them every time they do or say something you don't agree with—even when it seems that they are strong on opinions but weak in the faith department. Remember, they have their own history to deal with. Treat them gently. 2-4 For instance, a person who has been around for a while might well be convinced that he can eat anything on the table, while another, with a different background, might assume he should only be a vegetarian and eat accordingly. But since both are guests at Christ's table, wouldn't it be terribly rude if they fell to criticizing what the other ate or didn't eat? God, after all, invited them both to the table. Do you have any business crossing people off the guest list or interfering with God's welcome? If there are corrections to be made or manners to be learned, God can handle that without your help. 5 Or, say, one person thinks that some days should be set aside as holy and another thinks that each day is pretty much like any other. There are good reasons either way. So, each person is free to follow the convictions of conscience. 6-9 What's important in all this is that if you keep a holy day, keep it for God's sake; if you eat meat, eat it to the glory of God and thank God for prime rib; if you're a vegetarian, eat vegetables to the glory of God and thank God for broccoli. None of us are permitted to insist on our own way in these matters... 10-12 So where does that leave you when you criticize a brother? And where does that leave you when you condescend to a sister? I'd say it leaves you looking pretty silly—or worse. Eventually, we're all going to end up kneeling side by side in the place of judgment, facing God. Your critical and condescending ways aren't going to improve your position there one bit.

Read it for yourself in Scripture:

“As I live and breathe,” God says,

“every knee will bow before me;

Every tongue will tell the honest truth

that I and only I am God.”

So mind your own business. You've got your hands full just taking care of your own life before God.

Matthew 18:21-22 (The Message)

21 At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

22 Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven."

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 Peace*"

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

***Affirmation of Faith (UCC Statement of Faith)**

Leader: We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

**ALL: 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;
Thy creatures bless, and grant that we
may feast in fellowship with thee.***

Prayer of Dedication

Sending Hymn: "I've Got Peace Like a River"

NCH #478

[New Century Hymnal]

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, "To Settle Accounts: Service Prayers for the Sixteenth 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

Oct 4th is World Communion Sunday. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. This offering is traditionally received on World Communion Sunday however we will receive offering until the end of October. Thank you for your support and generosity.

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!!.

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 2026-2027 school year

Lisa Kieke, 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 27	Sunday Worship (C) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 7pm-8pm
Tues, Sept 29	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Sept 30	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thu, Oct 1	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL) Currently Sober (CE)	5:30pm-7pm 6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Oct 2	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Oct 3	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Oct 4	Sunday Worship (CE) New Millennium (CE)	9:30am 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