



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

19th Sunday after Pentecost (A)

Oct 4, 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

Philippians 2:1-13 (The Message) + Matthew 21:28b-32 (The Message)
Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Guest Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Pat Babel

Ushers – Derek & Marian Prince

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Lenette Wells

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in celebration of the anniversary of Denise & Joe Cisick
and the love of their 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 Joy,” then we sing)

**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!**

Call to Worship

Leader: We hear God calling us to the Table of Joy!

All: We lift our hearts to be filled with vitality and vigor!

Leader: We know that sometimes it is difficult to be joyful in life.

All: We recognize that joy is a practice, not just a happy feeling.

Leader: We open ourselves to the joy that comes with justice.

All: We make room at this table for joy in all its forms.

Leader: Let us turn to God in worship-

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn:

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

NCH #347

[New Century Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: We gather today as the people of God, as a community of Christ's followers. We gather to share Word and Sacrament...The Spirit beckons and transforms us because Jesus calls us to live our faith. Let us pray together:

Leader: Holy One,

All: there is so much in our lives and in our world right now that feels heavy and overwhelming and impossible. It is hard to feel joyful. Forgive our lack of insight. Forgive our withdrawal and self-protection that cuts us off not only from pain, but from all that is good. Help us to look around and see your beauty and your bounty that are right there alongside that which we fear. Help us to reach out our hands and open our hearts to your goodness and grace and to share that in this hurting world...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Friends, hear the Good News – In Christ, we are empowered for new life always! In Christ, you are forgiven; forgive others. You are restored; restore others. You are reconciled with God; be reconciled with others. Joy bubbles up in all these places in the Name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

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

Philippians 2:1-13 (The Message)

2 1-4 If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. 5-8 Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. 9-11 Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father. 12-13 What I'm getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you've done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I'm separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God's energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

Matthew 21:28b-32 (The Message)

A man had two sons. He went up to the first and said, 'Son, go out for the day and work in the vineyard.' 29 "The son answered, 'I don't want to.' Later on he thought better of it and went. 30 "The father gave the same command to the second son. He answered, 'Sure, glad to.' But he never went. 31-32 "Which of the two sons did what the father asked?" They said, "The first." Jesus said, "Yes, and I tell you that crooks and outcasts are going to precede you into God's kingdom. John came to you showing you the right road. You turned up your noses at him, but the crooks and outcasts believed him. Even when you saw their changed lives, you didn't care enough to change and believe him.

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Come to the Table of Joy”

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

Leader: Let us affirm the faith that we share with the Church Universal in the words of the Apostles’ Creed:

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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

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

Leader: The table of bread and wine is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

(sing together)

**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.**

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, uniting us through life given so graciously to all of creation.

...So we lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to God!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Holy Living One..

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" or "different" or "not my kin" or "other." 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, O God, 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.**

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Prayer after the Meal

Leader: Let us give thanks.

All: As we have been shown the joy of Jesus, may we take on the mantle of joy in our own lives, providing wellbeing and healing for the sorrows of this world. At this table, we have been fed. We have been nourished. We have been transformed. Thank you, God! Amen.

Sending Hymn:

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

NCH #526

[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:

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

With additions from:

World Communion Sunday liturgy from Global Ministries, ©2026 as found on www.ucc.org

[illegible]

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.

Meet & Greet — Next Sunday, Oct 13th is our Meet & Greet. Come join us for light snacks and fellowship.

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!!.

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, Oct 4	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Oct 6	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Oct 7	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thu, Oct 8	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Oct 9	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Oct 10	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am – 2pm
Sun, Oct 11	Sunday Worship (CE)	9:30am
	Meet and Greet (C)	<i>following worship</i>
	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



The Covenant Association
of the Keystone Conference UCC
News from around the Association
October 4, 2026
Greetings!

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL CALL TO THE COVENANT ASSOCIATION FALL GATHERING!

Sunday, October 25, 2026
Huff's Church, 540 Conrad Road, Alburtis, PA.
Spread the word!!

This year's theme for our Fall Association Gathering is "A Harvest of God's Goodness!" We will have much to celebrate at this gathering, including the anniversaries of our churches and clergy.

Our gathering will also center on the harvest. The fall season reminds us of all that God has provided through our fields and gardens.

We also recognize that many of our UCC churches support Helping Harvest Food Bank. Our churches do much to ensure that families have the food they need. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Dave Delozier, Chief Development Officer of Helping Harvest, who will share information and updates about the food bank.

PLEASE REGISTER AT

<https://covenantassociation.org>

THE COVENANT ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

Okay, we do need people in the pews! Otherwise, we would be preaching to empty seats! Not so good!

But the congregation needs people to be serving God in more ways than worshiping God on Sunday morning. Otherwise, there would not be a building and no committees. Whoa! What would we do with our time?

But, even if our own congregation is healthy and thriving, it is not the All-There-Is in God's Kingdom. In the UCC, congregations are organized into Associations. Why is this?

Covenant Association (cont)

We, we need each other. Disconnected congregations are like ships without directions; without training; without patrol boats to maintain order; without emergency preparations. That is why we have Associations. Good thinking!

But people serving in congregations don't have time to extend themselves for association work. Also, the congregations don't want to share a person's energy. The congregations do not realize that a person's energy in a wider circle can inspire the congregation to become more alive; to be thinking outward instead of just inward.

Are you one of the people who should help your own congregation in this way? When your congregation needs a pastor, you can claim that you helped to answer that need. Persons serving on the Formation side of the Committee on Ministry (COM) help to develop potential pastors; to walk with a person who feels the nudge to travel the road to ordination; to help the person discern if the call is for ordination as ordained clergy or some other path of servanthood in the kingdom.

Then if you would serve on the Standing side of COM, you would be supporting and guiding person already ordained as clergy. You would be a combination of a soft-edged patrol boat and the opener of good things to come for a congregation.

Are you more gifts for secretarial-type work? COM would be delighted for your talent?

Are you great at attracting volunteers who in turn attract new servants to the ship? The Nominating Committee welcomes you with wide-open arms!

Please use mestme@aol.com to answer the call! Rev. Mary Etta Mest, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

REMINDER:

COMBINED CHOIR AGAIN!!! 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!
revsmorris@gmail.com

Deadline for any church announcements for the November bulletin insert is October 21. Send to covenantassociation@yahoo.com