



ROMAN DENARIUS
OF THE TIME OF JESUS CHRIST

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

21st Sunday after Pentecost (A)

Oct 18, 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

Matthew 22:15-22 (NRSVUE)

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

Guest Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Andy Headman

Ushers – Stuart and Lenette Wells

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Dave Johnson

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in memory of and with loving gratitude to the women who raised me: Grammy, Mommy, and Mom, by Wanda Druzba

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: We gather in the presence of the One who created us in love.

All: We are made in the image of God, marked by grace and called to love.

Leader: The world makes many claims upon our lives and our loyalties.

All: But our deepest belonging is to God.

Leader: We come seeking wisdom to live faithfully in a world of competing voices.

All: We come seeking courage to live with compassion, justice, and peace.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God whose image we bear!

All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: “God of Grace and God of Glory” NCH #436
[New Century Hymnal]

(please be seated)

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Let us pray. Sovereign God, you go before us and invite us to meet you.

Today, we gather in your presence as a community of faith. Receive our worship. Be glorified among us and through us. Form and transform us as your people in justice, truth, compassion and love, as we pray together:

Leader: Gracious God...

All: you have revealed yourself in scripture, the prophets, and in Jesus, your Word made flesh. Yet, we have reduced your gospel of liberation for all people, restoration of all creation, and redemption for the world into personal, individual, piety and devotion. We make idols of the trappings of empire, trusting in our own plots and plans while failing to believe and trust you with bold, transformative prayers. Help us, O God, to live in faith and access your power. Remind us that you equip and endow us to be your body in the world so that all may flourish and experience your abundance...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Hear the Good News: God continues to do a new thing in you and will strengthen and encourage you to be bold and faithful in the journey. Receive the invitation to new and full life in Christ. Reject hopelessness, fatalism and despair. That is not your portion. God has given you a spirit to live in the kin-dom and be ambassadors and agents of the good news for the glory of God and the good of the world. In Christ, we are forgiven 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

Matthew 22:15-22 *(New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)*

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: “Whose Head is This?”

Hymn: “Is it Lawful to Pay Taxes?”

(to the tune “Beach Spring”)

[Permission given by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette to use this hymn for worship.]

"Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?"

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2014

Beach Spring, attr. B. F. White;
harm. Christopher Gage

1. "Is it law - ful to pay tax - es when they prop up Cae-sar's rule?"
2. "Find a tax coin in your trea-sure; see the im - age that it bears.
3. Lord of all, in ev - ery na - tion, may your word be un - der - stood—
4. Still, we al - so hear your teach - ing: "Give to God what God is due."

So some peo - ple asked of Je - sus, want - ing him to seem a fool.
Give to Cae - sar what is Cae - sar's. (Give to ru - lers what is theirs.)
That we have an ob - li - ga - tion to sup - port the com - mongood.
May no ru - ler—ov - er - reach - ing—try to take the place of you.

Say - ing "no" would be se - di - tion; say - ing "yes" would be a sin.
Yet he pressed on with his mes - sage; "Give to God what is God's own."
May our tax - es, all to - geth - er, fund our work - ing hand in hand
May we lis - ten to your mes - sage, may we hon - or what is yours;

Je - sus changed the con - ver - sa - tion, call - ing them to look with - in.
We who bear our Ma - ker's im - age wor - ship God and God a - lone.
So that life will be made bet - ter for all peo - ple in this land.
May we, liv - ing in your im - age, seek your king - dom that en - dures.

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New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com | Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com

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

(Worship His Majesty # 588, verse 1)

We give Thee but Thine own,

What e'er the gift may be;

All that we have is Thine alone,

A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

NCH #495

[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Worship Ways, "Whose Head: Service Prayers for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Year A," written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, ©2026 www.ucc.org

Announcements

It's that time of year again! Area churches are joining together once again this year to support families identified by the Daniel Boone School District as needing help to provide a yummy meal for the holidays. We are collecting \$50 and \$100 giftcards for Redners or Boyer's or funds toward gift cards, if you'd prefer. Deadline to contribute for Thanksgiving is November 8th, as the gift cards will be delivered to Daniel Boone on November 12th. Thank you for your generosity to families in our community!

St. Paul's will have its Halloween Parade Front Lawn Event again this year! The Birdsboro Halloween Parade will be held Thursday, October 22, beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer to help with setup, greet people, or pass out treats, we will begin setting up at 6:30 p.m. We also need donations of Halloween treats before the event. Collection boxes for treats have been placed near the sanctuary entrances. Thank you for helping make this a fun and welcoming event for our community!

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.

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 which was Oct 4th however we will continue to 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!!.

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.

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

***Electronic Giving is available with the Vanco Mobile App
or through our website "Give" page.***



St Paul's Weekly Calendar

Sun, Oct 18	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Oct 20	Consistory Meeting (CE)	4pm
Wed, Oct 21	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
	Worship Committee (CE)	11am
Thu, Oct 22	Prayers for the People (C)	4:30pm-6:00pm
	Birdsboro Halloween Parade	6:30pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Oct 23	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sun, Oct 25	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



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