



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

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Reformation Sunday

Oct 25, 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

Psalm 1 (NRSVUE) + Matthew 22:34-46 (NRSVUE)
Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Guest Worship Leader– Rev. Paul Jones

Reader – Pat Babel

Ushers – Barb & Andy Headman

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Lenette Wells

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in memory of Clyde & Frances Johnson
in honor of their wedding anniversary, by 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

Centering Prayer *(based on today's Scriptures)*

All: O Still Speaking God, throughout history and the wide world, you have gathered people around your Word, to instruct and to inspire. We give thanks for all who have received your vision and shaped faithful communities to follow in your Way. Continue to open your vision to us, that we may become transformed by the renewing of your Word. May your love for us inspire us to grow in love for you and one another. Along with the faithful of all places and times, we claim these blessings in your holy name. Amen.

Prelude

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship *(from today's Scriptures)*

Leader: O God, how righteous is your Word.

All: Transform us by your Word, O God!

Leader: Your judgments are upright

All: Transform us by your Word, O God!

Leader: Your precepts are unforgettable

All: Transform us by your Word, O God!

Leader: Give us understanding and we will live

All: Re-form us, reconcile us, and transform us by your Word, O God! Let us praise God together!

Opening Hymn:

“This is the Day”

NCH #84

[New Century Hymnal]

sing only verse 1 words- twice

(please be seated)

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: We confess we have strayed away from your Word,

People: We cry out to you, O God.

Leader: We confess that we have allowed the worries of this world to drive us
away from your vision for our lives,

People: We cry out to you, O God.

Leader: We confess that there is strife and contention all around us,

**All: We cry out to you, O God. We confess that we have taken our focus off
your Word. We have not allowed your Word to work in our lives, and
yet, we continue to cry out to you in times of trouble and need. Grant
us understanding and wisdom that we may see your vision and apply
it in our lives. Hear our prayer, O God, and call us back to you. Amen.**

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Siblings in Christ, hear and believe the good news: God knows all about
us, and God still loves us! Our sins are forgiven! We are a new people!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

All: Sing Psalm 1

NCH #621

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture

Reader: Psalm 1

NCH #621

All: Sing Psalm 1

NCH #621

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture

Reader: **Matthew 22:34-46** *(New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)*

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *The Heart of Our Faith*

Hymn: “They Asked, “Who’s My Neighbor?” **NCH #541**
[New Century Hymnal]

Affirmation of Faith

Leader: We are not alone, we live in God’s world.

All: We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God’s presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

*NCH #887
United Church of Canada, 1980*

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

[The New Century Hymnal- tune #780, words #778]

(please rise in body or in spirit as the doxology begins)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

Prayer of Dedication

[illegible]

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Now It Is Evening

627

Unison G D/F# C/G G

1 Now it is eve - ning: lights of the cit - y
 2 Now it is eve - ning: lit - tle ones sleep - ing
 3 Now it is eve - ning: food on the ta - ble
 4 Now it is eve - ning: here in our meet - ing

Am7 G/B C Dsus D

bid us re - mem - ber Christ is our light.
 bid us re - mem - ber Christ is our peace.
 bids us re - mem - ber Christ is our life.
 may we re - mem - ber Christ is our friend.

Bm Em Am Dsus D

Man - y are lone - ly, who will be neigh - bor?
 Some are ne - glect - ed, who will be neigh - bor?
 Man - y are hun - gry, who will be neigh - bor?
 Some may be strang - ers, who will be neigh - bor?

Am7 G/B C D G

Where there is car - ing, Christ is our light.
 Where there is car - ing, Christ is our peace.
 Where there is shar - ing, Christ is our life.
 Where there's a wel - come, Christ is our friend.

Benediction

Postlude

(Worship resources are reprinted by permission from the UCC Book of Worship, UCC Worship Ways, and The Worship Sourcebook, 2004, CRC Publications.)

[illegible]

Announcements

Good News! - The totals are in for the "Nourish Our Neighbors" Walk from September 20th. \$9500 was raised to benefit the ministry of Hopewell Love. Thank you for all the ways you supported this new endeavor of the Southeastern Berks Ministerium.

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!

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.

“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!

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.

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 25	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Oct 27	Woman's Club (CE)	7pm
Wed, Oct 28	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thu, Oct 29	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Oct 30	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sun, Nov 1	Daylight Saving Time ends	2am
	All Saints Day/Sunday Worship (C)	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