

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

24th Sunday after Pentecost (A) Nov 8, 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

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 (NRSVUE) + Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSVUE)
Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill
Reader – Wanda Druzba
Ushers – Diane & Dave Johnson
Accompanist – Barb Moyer
Acolyte – Pat Babel

Flower Dedication
To the Glory of God in loving memory of Violet Bordic
on her November 6th Birthday by daughter Linda and 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

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship

Leader: As we gather for worship, we turn toward God, and ask God to awaken our minds,
All: that we might see clearly,
Leader: to awaken our hearts,
All: that we might sense God's presence with us,
Leader: …to awaken our spirits,
All: as we sing and pray.
Leader: Wake us up, O God, in this time of worship.
All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: "Be Now My Vision" NCH #451
[New Century Hymnal]

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Holy One,
All: we know that your love has the power to transform us. We declare that your truth can liberate us. And so we pray for your transformation and liberation in our lives, our community and the world. God of wisdom and wonder, you are the voice that calls us toward life. You invite us to look for your presence and to live with expectant hearts. We confess that we sometimes grow weary, watching and waiting. We become distracted by the demands of the day, uncertain about tomorrow, and discouraged by the darkness around us. Renew us this day. Teach us to seek wisdom, to nurture faith, and to live as people of hope, in the power of your Spirit…

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, when we turn toward the Holy One, we find the Holy One has turned toward us. The God of compassion and grace will meet you in your hopes for a new life and will release you from actions and attitudes of the past. Receive God's forgiveness and invitation to embrace a new way going forward. In Christ you 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

Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 (NRSVUE) [pg 486]+
Matthew 25:1-13 (NRSVUE) [pg 21]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: *"Tending the Light"*

(please rise in body or in spirit)

Affirmation of Faith NCH #887

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.

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

(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

Sending Hymn: "Great is Your Faithfulness" NCH #423

[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:
Book of Worship, Copyright 1986 by the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.
Lectionary Liturgy, "Year A: Season after Pentecost, Proper 27 (32)," ©Scripture Echo, www.scriptureecho.org
Worship Ways, "We Will Serve: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Year A" by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Chu

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Announcements

Souper Sunday Meet-N-Greet Today! You're welcome to join us in the Upper Fellowship Room after the service and enjoy some soup and good fellowship. This is a time to catch up on what's happening in our St. Paul's community in Christ.

Today is the last! 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!

And you are invited to join!
Friday, November 20th at the church in the upper room from 4:00 to 5: 30 for Prayers for the People as we pray for our families, friends, and community - including all the prayers shared with us from the community dinners.
In addition, we will be introducing **a way to pray.**
Come for the entire hour and a half or drop in for as long as you wish! Contact Pat Babel at 484-949-5033 to be included in the email distribution. Thank you!

Annual Fall Congregational Meeting with the vote & sanctuary flag policy options and budget . This will be held on Sunday, Nov 22, 2026 in the main sanctuary & streamed live via zoom following Sunday worship.

The primary agenda item for this meeting is the review, discussion, and formal congregational vote to approve the proposed operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year. We will also vote on the approach for proceeding with a U.S. flag policy. First there will be a vote for consistory to create a compromise policy for when the flag will be displayed in the sanctuary. If rejected, there will be a second vote to have the flag displayed in the sanctuary all of the time or out all of the time.

Voting can be done in person, on zoom, or by proxy. Proxy forms are available in the sanctuary.

All members are encouraged to attend either in person in the Sanctuary or virtually to ensure we meet our required voting quorum.

Virtual Attendance: For those joining from home, the meeting will use the standard Sunday Service Zoom Connection. The virtual meeting room will remain open directly after the benediction concludes.

Service of Thanksgiving hosted by SE Berks Ministerium on Tues, Nov 24, 2026 at 7pm at St Paul's UCC. They are located at 1979 Weavertown Rd, Douglassville. Come join us as we celebrate the blessings we have and the joy we share with our community and our fellow faith communities. St. Paul's Amityville is also inviting people to participate in a joint choir that night. All our welcome!

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.

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, Nov 8	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	Meet and Greet (C)	following worship
	Private Party (fellowship hall)	all day
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Mon, Nov 9	C.O.M. (CE)	10am-12pm
	Scouting for Food (CE)	6pm-8pm
Wed/ Nov 11	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
Thu, Nov 12	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Nov 13	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm-8pm
Sta., Nov 14	Scouting for Food	8am-12pm
Sun, Nov 15	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm

<u>This Week: Church Office Hours</u>
Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:00am-1:00pm

<u>This Week: Pastor Deb's Office Hours</u>

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

Keystone
CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Covenant Association
of the Keystone Conference UCC
News from around the Association
November 1, 2026

Greetings!

Honoring the Saints, Embracing Our Responsibility

As November rolls in, we find ourselves reflecting on two important parts of our lives: honoring the saints who have gone before us and exercising our responsibility as citizens in the upcoming elections. At first glance, these may seem unrelated, but I believe they share a common thread: the legacy of love, courage, and hope we leave for future generations.

On All Saints' Sunday, we remember those whose lives touched ours. Some were outspoken advocates for justice, while others quietly demonstrated God's love through kindness, generosity, and compassion. They weren't perfect, but they helped shape who we are today. Their lives remind us that faith isn't simply something we believe; it's something we live.

As we approach Election Day, we have another opportunity to put our faith into action. Voting is more than choosing candidates or political parties. It is an opportunity to consider the kind of world we want to leave behind. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, care for the vulnerable, welcome the stranger, and seek justice. These values transcend political divisions and challenge us to look beyond our own interests.

We won't all vote alike, and that's okay! Our differences need not divide us. What matters is that we approach one another with respect, compassion, and a willingness to listen.

Hebrews 12:1 reminds us that we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses.”Those saints who came before us carried the torch of faith, hope, and love. Now it's our turn.

May we honor their memory not only through remembrance, but through the choices we make, the kindness we share, and the courage we show.

After all, someday we will be someone's saints. What legacy of love will we leave behind?

The Rev. Tammie Wisniewski
One UCC, Kenhorst

A Personal Note

As many of you know, I have stepped down as Moderator for a number of reasons. I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to serve you. It has been an honor, and I am grateful for the encouragement, prayers, and support you have shared with me along the way.

I also need to speak plainly: we urgently need people who are willing to help—not only in our local churches, but across our Association. Christianity was never meant to be lived alone. Christ calls us to come together and work for mercy, justice, love, and hope. We cannot simply stay in our own churches, trying to hold on and hoping someone else will step forward. The need is here, and the
time to respond is now.

This is bigger than any one of us or any one congregation. It is about helping bring Christ's kingdom to life here and now. I thank God for every person who has already given time, energy, ideas, and prayer to this work. I ask every church in the Covenant Association to pray—and then to act—so that together we can build a vibrant ministry that shines the light of Christ in a world that needs it.

Please prayerfully consider stepping forward to volunteer. Your gifts are needed, your ideas matter, and your willingness to help can make a real difference. With grateful hearts, let's answer Christ's call together.

Rev. Sharon Morris

REMINDER:
Deadline for any church announcements for the December bulletin insert is November 22nd. Send to covenantassociation@yahoo.com.