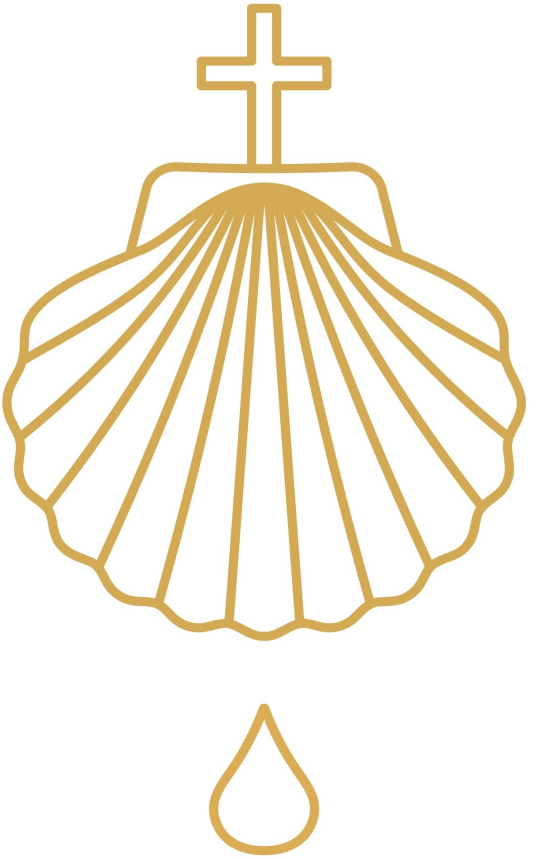


St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Nov 15, 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

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (NRSVUE) + Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSVUE)
Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Worship Leader– Rev. Deborah Parker-Hill
Reader – Lenette Wells
Ushers – Barb Kerper & Wanda Druzba
Accompanist – Barb Moyer
Acolyte – Doug Johnson

Flower Dedication

To the Glory of God in honor of Sue McCalicher's 88th birthday 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

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, we gather as God's people.
All: We lift up our eyes, to behold our God, who is among us.
Leader: We lift up our hearts, to sense God's presence and power with us.
All: We lift up our spirits, and allow God to make a difference in and through our lives.
All: Let us worship God together!

Opening Hymn: "I Sing the Praise of Love Almighty" NCH #50

[New Century Hymnal]

Prayer of Invocation

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

Leader: Gracious God
All: creator of the night and day, we approach you in prayer, admitting that at times we stumble blindly in the darkness. We can't always see you. Sometimes our eyes are closed to your goodness and your guidance. Open our eyes that we may see the right path to take and the faithful choice to make. Lift up our eyes, O God, that we might see ourselves as you see us, bathed in your grace. Have mercy upon us, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: Beloved, God's grace continuously transforms our hearts and shows us the way. God is light and in the divine light, there is no darkness at all. Believe the good news of the gospel: in Christ you are forgiven, made whole, 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

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 [page #159] + Matthew 25:14-30 [page #22]

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Risking Joy

Hymn: “O God, We Yearn for Safety”

Tune: ANGEL’S STORY (“O Jesus, I Have Promised”)
by A. H. Mann, 1883
Text: Copyright ©2011by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette.
Permission granted for congregational use.

O God, we yearn for safety; we long to be secure.
Yet faithful, loving service is what you value more.
You give us what is needed; you love, forgive and save.
Then, sending us to serve you, you call us to be brave.

You give to some ten talents – to others, two or three;
To some you give one blessing to manage faithfully.
For you, O Lord, are loving and don’t demand success;
You daily call your people to lives of faithfulness.

You give your church the gospel – Good news for us to share.
You give us great compassion for neighbors everywhere.
You give us skills to serve you and loving work to do.
We’re blest to be a blessing, and called to risk for you.

O God, it seems much safer to live from day to day,
Protecting what you lend us and hiding it away.
Yet all these gifts can’t flourish when hidden in the ground;
When we are brave to share them your blessings will abound.

Reception of New Members

Invitation and Sentences

Questions of the Candidate

Pastor: Zac, Cindy and Rich, do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Candidate: I do.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Do you believe in God?
All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
All: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Address
Pastor: By your baptism you were made one with us in the body of Christ, the church. Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith which has brought you to this time and place. We give thanks for every community of faith that has been your spiritual home, and we celebrate your presence in this household of faith.

Pastor: Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?
Candidate: I promise, with the help of God.

Welcome and Reception

Pastor: Let us, the members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

(Candidates may turn to face the congregation)

Congregation: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Prayer

Sacrament of Baptism

Invitation and Welcome

Address

Pastor: Jesus also said...

Pastor: The sacrament of baptism is an outward and visible sign of the grace of God. Inasmuch as the promise of the gospel is not only to us but also to our children, baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

All: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.

Questions

Pastor: Gabby and Zac, do you desire to have your child baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Will you teach this child that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Parents: We will, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with this child in the Christian faith, to help him to be faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that he may affirm his baptism?

Parents: We do, with the help of God.

Congregational Assent

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

Congregation: We promise our love, support, and care.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer for the Baptized

(Let us all rise in body or in spirit as we sing)

Hymn: "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" NCH #351
[New Century Hymnal]

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

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Sending Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You" NCH #4
[New Century Hymnal]

Benediction

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:
Book of Worship, ©1986 by permission of the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

Lectionary Liturgy: Year A, Season after Pentecost, Proper 28 (33), ©Scripture Echo.

+ +

Announcements

Today we celebrate the sacrament of baptism for Mason Nathanael Rahn, son of Zac and Gabby Rahn. Mason is the grandson of Debbie and Paul Rahn and Mark and Marie Gutekunst. The rosebud and candle on the altar is in honor of Mason's baptism.

We also celebrate those joining this household of faith through affirmation of baptism - Zachary Rahn and Richard and Cynthia Weilacher.
We welcome all visitors today, who are joining with the members and friends of St. Paul's in this celebration! All are invited to join us for cake and punch after worship

Our collection of financial contributions, as well as gift cards to Redners and Boyers, for families in the Daniel Boone Area School District has ended. We were able to provide $600 in gift cards! However, collection continues for Christmas meals, so it is not too late to donate, if you would like. Thank you for your generosity! It makes a real difference 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.

For clarification: The vote on the flag policy could be two-fold. First there will be a vote as to whether or not the consistory should proceed in creating a policy that reflects a compromise between our varied positions. If the vote for a compromise is "yes," the details of when and where the flag will be present in the sanctuary will be worked out, written in the policy, and presented to the congregation for final approval. If the vote for a compromise is "no,"another vote will be taken on Nov. 22 with two choices for the flag's presence in the sanctuary: "always" or "never," again, with details to be worked out and presented for final approval. The proxy forms must be completed before the meeting and sent to worship with someone on the 22nd.

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 15	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	Celebrating baptism and new members	*following worship*
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Nov 17	Woman's Club (CE)	7pm
Wed/ Nov 18	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
	Worship Committee (CE)	11am
	Consistory Meeting (CE)	4pm
Thurs, Nov 19	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Nov 20	Prayers for the People (C-upper room)	4:00pm-5:30pm
	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm-8pm
Sun, Nov 22	Sunday Worship (C)	9:30am
	Congregational Meeting (C)	*following worship*
	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

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.

Welcome Our New Members!

Rich & Cindy Weilacher
Rich
I was born on July 2nd, 1956 and was the fourth of five sons. I grew up on Mill Street. I was diagnosed with cancer when I was fifteen years old. The cancer treatments that I went through were experimental at the time. I was a scout leader for 15 ears during the ‘80s and ‘90s. I hiked/backpacked over 100 miles in seven days at the Boy Scout National Camp (Philmont) in ’98. My hobbies include hiking, music and reading.

Cindy
I was born on June 17th, 1956 and was born premature. I grew up just outside of Birdsboro in Exeter Township. I’ve been married to Rich for 51 years. We have two children and three grandchildren. My hobbies are making greeting cards and crafts.

Zachary Rahn grew up in Morgantown, PA, and was a lifelong member of Grace Alsace United Church of Christ until its closure in 2019. He went on to attend Villanova University, where he had the opportunity to study in Rome and develop a website for the Vatican. Today, Zac works as a Software Engineering Manager in King of Prussia and lives in Phoenixville with his wife, Gabby, and their son, Mason.