



CORNERSTONE

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SOMERSET, PENNSYLVANIA

Access Control System to be Installed

Church Council approved a plan to install an access control system at their May meeting. The system comes in response to accessibility concerns following a series of incidents last summer with a homeless man who would not leave the church, nor accept alternative assistance. Church Council embarked upon a nine-month study on how to adequately secure the church while also allowing maximum access to church members, staff, community groups, rental groups, and those who are in need.

Responding to members' needs. Every member of the church who desires 24-hour access to the church will be given a key fob or access card. This will enable church members to gain access to the church during after-hours to pray, complete projects, or find solitude. Once the system is installed, the church will be unlocked during normal business hours and on Sundays. The use of the key fob or access card will only be necessary during non-business hours.

Responding to user groups' needs. The access control system is a computer-based system that will allow us to lock and unlock the outside doors by following a programmed schedule set to meet the usage needs of the church. For example, the downstairs doors will remain unlocked during Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings when AA and Weight Watchers meet. The doors will then lock during the remainder of the night and unlock in the morning when office hours begin.

Responding to community needs. The access control system also allows church leaders to respond to unexpected community needs by: remotely programming, locking, and unlocking doors as needed; and assisting those in need by use of a calling station at the main door to contact the pastor in the event of an extraordinary need during after-hours.

Installation of the system is to begin the week of July 15th. We anticipate it may take three to four weeks for completion. Watch for updates in the Sunday bulletin and the Cornerstone Newsletter.

Church Council would like to thank the congregation for their understanding and patience this past year as we studied, prayed, and finally reached the decision to move forward with the access control system for our church facility.



Dear St. Paul's Family,

The Privilege of Doing Ministry

One of the defining aspects of Jesus' life and ministry was the relationships that he had with those who answered the call to follow him. The group of disciples were a diverse group of people from many walks of life. Some were fishermen, day laborers, and even a tax collector—and those were just the 12 initial disciples. Other women and men would become followers: homemakers, farmers, laborers, Pharisees, ex-convicts, Roman officials, and even a former persecutor of the church and Roman citizen named Paul.

Despite the diversity of disciples, the church's mission was singular: to spread the message about Jesus and God's love for all of humanity. The early disciples not only preached about Jesus, but healed the sick, fed the hungry, and comforted all who suffered. Their worship of the resurrected Christ did not end with Sunday's benediction, but followed them into their homes and places of work. Love, mercy, grace, and inclusion became the defining parameters for Jesus' followers as they interacted with the world around them.

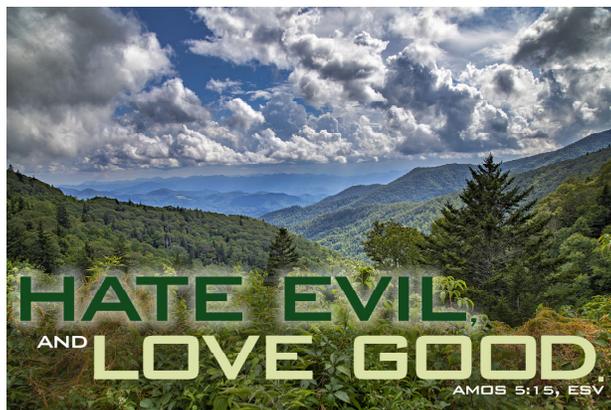
Two millennia have passed since Jesus sent forth the first disciples to minister on his behalf. While much has changed in our world, the love of God through Jesus Christ has not. Our charge as modern-day disciples is the same as those first followers: to spread the message about Jesus and God's love for all of humanity in the words and actions that fill our days. Not all words and actions done by Christians or in the church are from God. Dogged adherence to doctrines and rules that marginalize or ostracize individuals and groups are seldom from God. Nor are words or attitudes that are racist or abusive to others.

How are you doing with your singular charge to show God's love to others in thought, word, and deed? How have you brought someone encouragement or hope in their time of need? How have you helped to mend the social fabric frayed by partisanship, tribalism, distrust, and fear? The ministry of Christ's disciples is not something that happened a long time ago in a land far away. Christ's saving work happens right in our own homes and towns, in the places where we work and play. Christ calls us to be part of the beloved community of his resurrected body. I pray that we are all ready for this life-saving calling.

May God bless our journey,
Pastor Matt

Love for the World:
***Planting seeds locally, to grow fields of
grace and peace worldwide***

Our first "Love for the World" supper, learning, and vigil event will take place on Friday, August 16th from 5-7pm in Shellenberger Park & Fellowship Hall. The theme for our inaugural "Love for the World" is *Blessing Children and Families*. Resource partners will be present to share what services are available for children and families in our county and throughout the country. During the vigil service we will be doing a blessing on the backpacks in preparation for children, teacher, and staff returning to school. All school participants are free to bring a backpack or bag to be blessed. We will also be accepting non-perishable food items to share with our local food bank. A light picnic supper will be served.



Faith community across time

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also ... run with perseverance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1, NRSV).

Inspired by this, Paul Hammer writes in *The Word Among Us*: “In the Bible, faith is never a matter simply for an isolated individual. It involves a community of persons that stretches back into the past, embraces people in the present and anticipates a fellowship in the future. Faith involves a ‘cloud of witnesses’ to God’s continuing faithfulness.”

One of the ways that God speaks to us is through our worship time together. The season of Pentecost gives us the opportunity to discern the ways in which God is calling us to a life of growth and vitality. We are truly partners in Christ's saving work, so let us make regular worship a part of our discernment process.

I'll see you in worship!
Pastor Matt

Worship begins at 9:30
Sunday school at 10:45

Picnic in the Park

Please join us in Shellenberger Park for our annual church picnic on Sunday, August 18th following our regular Sunday morning worship service.

Here's a look at the schedule for the day:

9:30am: Worship in the Sanctuary

10:45am: Refreshments, Fellowship & Games in the park

Noon: Fun & Food in the park!

Please feel free to bring a covered dish to share! Meat, drinks, and table settings will be provided.

The Spiritual Life & Evangelism Team is organizing a picnic committee to assist you in caring for your covered dish during the regular Sunday morning worship, helping to plug in crockpots, refrigerate food, and etc. You can either bring your covered dish prior to worship or get it during the transition time between the end of the dedication service and the picnic.

Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary if you'd like to attend. Contact Pastor Matt or Sally McClintock if you have any questions.

August 4: Theme for the week: *Soul Investment* **The Eight Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture readings for the week
Old Testament: Hosea 11:1-11
Psalter: Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Gospel: Luke 12:13-21
New Testament: Colossians 3:1-11

August 11: Theme for the week: Living into the Promise **The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture readings for the week
Old Testament: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalter: Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Gospel: Luke 12:32-40
New Testament: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

August 18: Theme for the week: Restore Us **The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture readings for the week
Old Testament: Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalter: Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Gospel: Luke 12:49-56
New Testament: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

August 25: Theme for the week: *Healing Reign* **The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Scripture readings for the week
Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:4-19
Psalter: Psalm 71:1-6
Gospel: Luke 13:10-17
New Testament: Hebrews 12:18-29



Greeters & Ushers for August

August 4: Communion By Intinction: Craig Weaver—Chair & Elder, Harold Weaver—Elder, Denise Weaver, Kathy Gary

August 11: Angie Brumbaugh—Chair, Josh Brumbaugh, Kristen Mumau, Emma Mumau

August 18: Rebecca Miller—Chair, John Harris, Lorin Harris, Samantha Miller

August 25: John Geary, Jr.—Chair, Sue Geary, Emily Korn, Steve Addleman

Grooving for God

Fifty years ago this summer, as the Woodstock Festival in upstate New York became a symbol of the countercultural movement, another groundswell was occurring: the Jesus Movement. In 1970, teenager Greg Laurie was baptized after a bunch of “Jesus freaks” introduced him to the Savior. The lost kid whose mom had been divorced seven times finally felt part of a family.

Laurie, now pastor of a megachurch and author of Jesus Revolution (Baker Books), says the Millennial generation is ripe for another major faith movement. During a time of division and unrest that mirrors the late '60s, people are longing for what's “real” and relational, he writes. Our “weary, chaotic, selfie-saturated culture” needs “a big, ravishing, transcendent, and transformational vision of who God really is,” adds Laurie. “That’s what happened fifty years ago. It can happen again today.”



Summer fruit basket

Taste some fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) — perfect for summer, and all year round!



- Love: “There is always an ‘again’ with love.” —Unknown
- Joy: “I don’t think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains.” —Anne Frank
- Peace: “Peace begins with a smile.” —Mother Teresa
- Patience: “The purposes of God may sometimes seem delayed, but they are never abandoned.” —H.C. Mears
- Kindness: “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” —Mark Twain
- Goodness: “Goodness means to do things for the glory of God.” —Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- Faithfulness: “Do small things as if they were great because of the majesty of Christ, who does them in us.” —Blaise Pascal
- Gentleness: “There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness.” —Han Suyin
- Self-control: “God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” —2 Tim. 1:7 (ESV)

The Bulletin Board

Emailing the church and Pastor Matt: If you need to email the pastor or the church, please direct your email to jmdeal@gmail.com

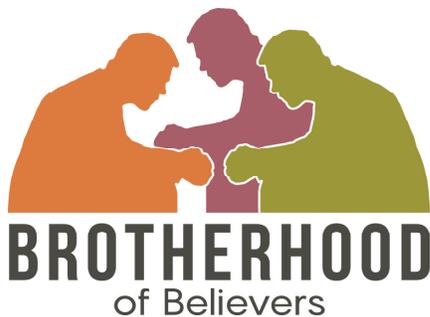
The church office email is
stpaulsuccoffice1@gmail.com

Transportation Assistance: If you, or someone you know, needs a ride to church or any church-related event, please contact the church office, 445-4534.

Book of Remembrance forms are in the literature rack in the narthex. If you wish to give a gift in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please use this form. You can place it in your offering envelope along with your monetary gift or you can bring it to the office. We save these forms for documentation until the Book of Remembrance is published in the newsletter twice a year.

Bible Study: Bible Studies following worship themes will be held on Tuesdays at 10:00am.

Men's Brotherhood will meet for their August meeting on Saturday, August 3rd at 8:00am at The Stoystown Tractor Show. All men of the church are invited to attend!



"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Thank you, Holy Spirit, for strengthening our faith in God, in goodness, in life and in love.

August's Meetings at a Glance (available at press time)

Thursday, August 1st: Care Team, 1:00pm, CE Room

Saturday, August 3rd: Men's Brotherhood, 8:00am, King's Restaurant

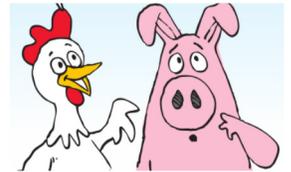
Friday, August 16th: Love for the World Event, 5-7pm, Shellenberger Park and Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 18th: Picnic in the Park Church Picnic, Noon, Shellenberger Park

Tuesday, August 20th: Church Council Picnic and meeting, 6:00pm, Shellenberger Park

Many ways to give

As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of "Ham and Eggs!"



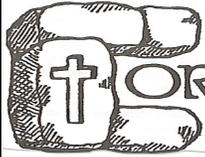
"That's nice," said the hen. "A chance for us to serve the congregation."

"Easy for you to say," replied the pig. "For you, it's a contribution; for me, it's a sacrifice!"

Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being involved in breakfast, while the pig is committed. Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn't all-in.

"People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon" are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in The Jesus-Centered Life (Group). That total, "without reservation" commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus — as he gave his for you.

On the other hand, giving consistently, day in and day out, even in what might seem to be small ways, also is valuable. Maybe the moral is not to judge others' stewardship because we all give differently.



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St. Paul's United Church of Christ
202 West Union Street, Somerset, PA 15501
814-445-4534

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EDITOR: Sally McClintock

Phone: Cell 279-1173

EMAIL: sallymc@zoominternet.net

PASTOR: Rev. Matthew Deal

Office/Cindy: stpaulsuccoffice1@gmail.com

Church Phone: 814-445-4534

EMAIL: jmdeal@gmail.com

Web Site: www.stpaulsuccsomerset.org

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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