

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Somerset, PA

Friday, May 13, 2022

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!

Our Ministry Team

Rev. J. Matthew Deal: *Pastor*

Mrs. Jenn Boland: *Director of Programming for Children, Youth, & Families*

Mr. Dave Neimiller: *Organist & Director of Music*

Mrs. Cindy Lambert: *Administrative and Financial Secretary*

Ms. Marcy Shellenberger: *Children's and Youth Choir Director*

Church Council Officers:

President – Mike Boyer

Vice President – Pam Webreck

Secretary – Emily Kornis

Treasurer – Henry Cook

Church Office: 814-445-4534

Dear St. Paul's Friends and Family,

"What God has made clean, you must not call profane." (Acts 11:9b)

We cannot underestimate the historical significance of the Apostle Peter's vision in the eleventh chapter of the book of Acts. Peter is deep in prayer when he sees a sheet with all sorts of animals on it being lowered from heaven. A voice commands him to get up, kill and eat. Peter, an observant Jew, initially refuses, because to kill and eat without regard to the type of animal would make it unclean to eat according to Jewish law. Peter's protests regarding clean and unclean are met with the admonishment that God does not create anything that is profane.

This vision is not only about observing religious dietary restrictions, but the broadening of God's family to include non-Jews. Up until this point, the followers of Jesus were all Jews who observed traditional Jewish religious laws and norms. The church as we know it was not yet formed and synagogues remained the central place of worship for Jesus' followers. Peter is transformed by this vision and begins to welcome Gentiles (non-Jews) into Jesus' fold. This move was hugely controversial

because welcoming Gentiles into Jewish religious life and community was seen by many in the newly forming church as profane. Yet, had it not been for this vision and for Peter's courage, many of us modern-day Christians would not be included in the church. Peter's vision at Joppa vastly expanded the reach and scope of God's saving work.

I've always found it both interesting and disappointing how the church with its various traditions throughout history have excluded people from their communities. The dietary restrictions and religious exclusivism of Peter's day have played out numerous times over the millennia up to the present moment. The characters and debated topics change, but the ways in which we exclude people because of who they are impediments to Christ's life-giving work. Furthermore, in excluding others who are not like us, we limit the depth, vision, and reach of the church, the Body of Christ. May we be generous and courageous like Peter as we seek to include and affirm the personhood of others within our wider community. In doing so, we will extend the same

healing and life-saving benefits that were extended to us by Peter's vision. Let us affirm the blessedness that is in all God's children no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Matt

[Here are our worship opportunities for the week ahead:](#)

Gathered worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday, 9:30am.

Online Worship at 9:30am on Facebook and YouTube.

Telephone Worship at 11:00am.

For telephone worshippers: the toll-free conference call number is 1-844-855-4444.

The automated service will then ask for your access code or PIN. Please enter: 512013#.

Worship Resources for May 15, 2022

Prelude

Call to Worship & Welcoming Children *Rev. Nancy C. Townley*

Leader: How wondrous! A new heaven and a new earth!

All: The old, bruised and angered, fearful and alienated, will pass away.

L: In its place God will offer new hope and peace.

All: God will dwell with God's people forevermore.

L: Worship the Lord who is about to do a new thing.

All: Praise God who establishes God's reign in the heart of God's people.

*Opening Hymn "All Are Welcome"

*The Greeting

The Call to Confession *Rev. Nancy C. Townley*

L: God loves us and accepts us. Let us in confidence make our confession to God.

The Prayer of Confession *Rev. Nancy C. Townley*

Patient God, sometimes we are just too busy for our own good. We pledge ourselves to hectic schedules, demands on time, energy, and resources that erode all too quickly. We seem to be rushing through life. The cries of those in need often go unheeded in our blur of activities which sap our energy, our resources, our spirits.

Slow us down a bit, Lord. Remind us again that we are responsible for the care of this world, for reaching out and offering your healing love. Help us to hear the words of patient love that you have for us. Remind us again of Jesus' words to his disciples when he told them that they should love one another as he loved them. May we take time to bear witness to that love in all that we do. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

a time for personal reflection and confession

Kyrie

Leader: Congregation: Leader: Congregation:

Lord have mer - cy Lord have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy Christ have mer - cy

Leader: Congregation:

Lord have mer - cy on us Lord have mer - cy on us

Words of Assurance *Rev. Nancy C. Townley*

L: Wherever you are, Christ is with you. You are beloved of God and God's care will always surround you. Be at peace and rejoice!

All: Amen.

The Passing of the Peace

L: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Today's Scripture Lesson Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Sermon: "*Eating Pete*"

The Apostles' Creed:

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. 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 into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 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 Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer Response

5 Come - and fill all - my life, Come - and fill all - my life.

Each and ev - ry ten - der place: Ho - ly Breath, move through me.
Pour - ing gen - tly, rush - ing strong: Ho - ly Breath, move through me.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Below the first staff, the lyrics are: "Come - and fill all - my life, Come - and fill all - my life." A small number "5" is written below the first measure. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. Below it, the lyrics are: "Each and ev - ry ten - der place: Ho - ly Breath, move through me. Pour - ing gen - tly, rush - ing strong: Ho - ly Breath, move through me."

Invitation to the Offering Rev. J.M. Deal

L: God's greatest gift to us is freedom from death, doubt, and despair. Out of our deep sense of gratitude, we offer to God our own gifts.

All: May our offerings bring life and hope to others thirsting for new life.

*The Doxology

6 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove ye heaven - ly host; Praise fath - er, son and ho - ly ghost.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes having a fermata. Below the first staff, the lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; Praise him a - bove ye heaven - ly host; Praise fath - er, son and ho - ly ghost." A small number "6" is written below the first measure. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values and fermatas.

*The Prayer of Dedication Rev. J.M. Deal

All: May our humble gifts given during this Easter Season be a taste of resurrection to those in need. May our lives be points of Christ's light to those who are living in darkness. And may our very existence be dedicated to you, O God, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father, 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.

Recessional Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #2

*The Benediction

"Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit."

And may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit remain with you forever. Amen.

*Organ Interlude and Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude

Watch Facebook and YouTube for special devotionals and offerings during the week.

Check Facebook and watch your email for changes of services that may have changed from week to week, possibly even day to day.

We are grateful for your continued support of St. Paul's ministry and mission giving!

Please note, we continue to accept offering during our in-person services, USPS mailed in offerings and online with Tithe.ly. If you have any questions, please call the church at 445-4534.

Please check our website periodically throughout the week for updates: www.stpaulsuccsomerset.org

Current Expense Giving

Date	Current Expenses Giving	Year to Date	As budgeted by Council needed year to date
March	\$ 24,768	\$ 51,048	\$ 70,566
April	\$ 18,666	\$ 69,704	\$ 94,088

**Save the date for this year's
Community Vacation Bible School!**

VBS will be July 11-15.



We will be enjoying a delicious food truck theme! Children from 3 years old to 6th grade are invited to attend. This year's Bible school will be a cooperative effort

between 3 partner churches. As is the case every year, we need adult and teen helpers to make our VBS a success. Please talk to Jenn Boland or Amanda Deal if you are interested in helping!

****VBS Volunteer Important Note****

We are in the process of updating the child clearance files of all our volunteers. If you wish to help with our precious children and/or youth, we will help you apply for the required clearances. Please call Cindy in the church office at 814-445-4534 or talk to Jenn Boland after church on Sunday.



Meals on Wheels Update

St. Paul's dessert week is May 23 - May 27. After last Sunday's sign-up, the following desserts are still needed:

Monday, May 23 29 X13 cakes

Tuesday, May 24 4 doz. cookies

Wednesday, May 25 10 quick breads

Thursday, May 26 4 large angel food cakes

Friday, May 27 5 doz. muffins

This is a community service that we have provided for many years. The desserts are basic - no icing, nuts or chocolate.

The baked items need to be delivered to Calvary United Methodist Church, 235 W. Church St., between 6:30 am and 8:30 am on the designated day. The rear entrance may be used for delivery.

I will be in church on Sunday if you would like to help. You may also call or text me at 814-442-6646.

Thank you!

Pam Webreck

St. Paul's Homes is May's Mission Offering



St. Paul's is a nonprofit, faith-based continuing care community. More than 500 residents call St. Paul's home with an additional 200 seniors served through home and community-based services. Located in Greenville, Pa., St. Paul's is a convenient hour drive from Pittsburgh, Cleveland or Erie.

St. Paul's is a fee-for-service organization, which means each individual level of care has assigned fees. So, residents only have to pay for what they truly need. The greater the independence of the resident, the less required amount of care and less required fees.

- [Independent Living Services](#)
- [Personal Care Services](#)
- [Memory Care](#)
- [Skilled Nursing Care](#)
- [Short Stay Care](#)
- [Home-Based Services](#)

Mission

The mission of St. Paul's formed and sustained by the Judeo-Christian faith, and historically related to the United Church of Christ, is to provide meaning, richness of life, health care, and other support services, while maintaining and enhancing the dignity of human life.

Vision

To create a sense of belonging and purpose by providing a nurturing environment in a place that can be called home.

Person-Centered

Rather than attempting to fit residents within preexisting services, we strive to be a place where the resident is at the center of decision making. We focus on each person's gifts, skills and capabilities and enable these to be expressed.

Compassion

St. Paul's values showing special kindness to those who suffer by recognizing their suffering and wanting to help.

Please consider supporting this important mission partner.

Sharing this information for the Children's Aid Home of Somerset County....



The Children's Aid Home will be hosting a Foster Care awareness event on May 16th here at the Aid Home to celebrate our wonderful foster families and to provide an opportunity for more local families to learn about how they can be involved in foster care in Somerset County. There will be a bouncy castle and backyard games, as well as complementary picnic food and ice cream with the dairy princess.

Many heartfelt thanks for your support!

What: Foster Care Backyard BBQ event

When: May 16th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Where: The Children's Aid Home

St. Paul's UCC's own Quilters and Knotters won 2 white ribbons, 2 red ribbons and 1 blue ribbon at the 75th Annual PA Maple Festival in Meyersdale, PA!

The Quilters would like to invite anyone who is interested learning how to quilt to join them on Thursdays. Come and Learn!! Please talk to Shirley Weigle, Helen Brown or Susan Wineke for more information.