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# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Somerset, PA

Sunday, April 12, 2026

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

## Our Ministry Team

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Rev. J. Matthew Deal: *Pastor*

Amanda Deal: *Director of  
Children & Youth Ministries*

Dave Neimiller: *Organist  
& Director of Music*

Marcy Shellenberger-Steinly:  
*Children's and Youth Choir  
Director*

Todd Wetzel: *Church  
Council President*

Melanie Downing: *Church  
Council Vice President*

Andra Snyder: *Secretary*

Jonathan Hillegas: *Treasurer*

Adam Shaffer & Diana Laue:  
*Trustees*

**Church Office: 814-445-4534**

Dear St. Paul's Family,

We are now in the season of Easter, a time when we celebrate with hope the possibilities of new life and God's overflowing love for all creation. The events of Good Friday, although a memory, are still very present. Our Gospel reading for the day bears witness to the trauma of that day, as Thomas has trouble accepting the news that Jesus has been raised from the dead. And who can blame him? Like Thomas, most of us are "seeing is believing" type people. Jesus is not offended or deterred by Thomas' uncertainty, but invites him to see, touch, and believe.

Jesus also invites us into the unfolding miracle of the resurrection. We won't be putting our fingers in Jesus' scarred palms or side but will have the opportunity to observe new life as we handle the wounds of others. We will witness the struggles that our neighbors face because of sickness and other health challenges, poverty, depression, and oppression. We will touch

their wounds and our own and learn the same thing that Thomas learned: that God too is wounded, healed, and resurrected. We are not alone in our suffering but are joined by God and resurrected with Christ. Easter's great lesson is that God's will for us is abundant life.

Let us live into this divine vision together as we witness Christ at work in our wounded world. May God bless you on this journey of resurrection!

Blessings,

*Pastor Matt*



Passing of the Peace

L: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Special Music

A Time for Children

\*Hymn of Praise

“Let it Breathe on Me”

260

Today’ Scripture Lesson

**John 20:19-31**

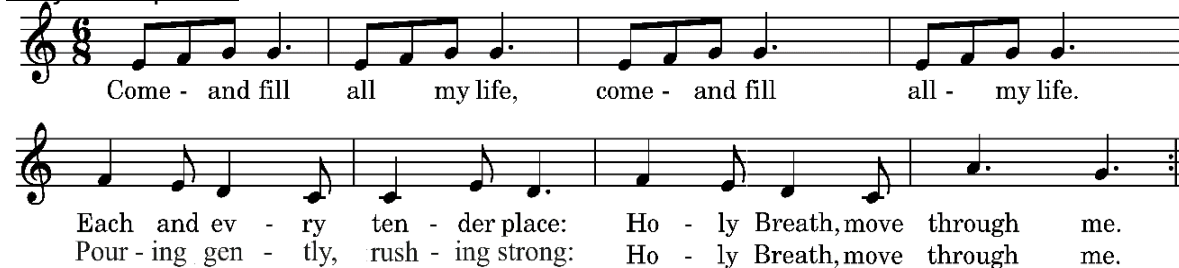
When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon

“Blessed are You”

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response



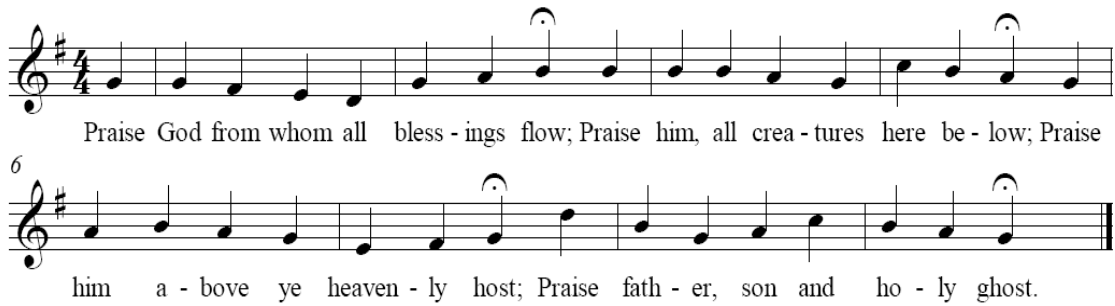
Come - and fill all my life, come - and fill all - my life.

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

\*The Doxology



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.

\*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.**

\*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.**

Closing Hymn

"Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna"

222

\*Benediction

\*Organ Interlude and Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude

*Please note, we continue to accept offerings during our in-person services, USPS mailed in offerings and online with Tithe.ly. If you have any questions, please call the church at 814-445-4534.*

**Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday: 8:30am—3:00pm**

*If someone is not physically in the office when you stop by, Pastor Matt or Dave is likely somewhere else in the building.*

Office Phone: 814-445-4534

## Greeters and Ushers:

April 12	April 19	April 26	May 3 Communion
<b>Andra Snyder-chair</b> Audrey Hay Sienna Ash Laura Fochtman	<b>Diana Laue-chair</b> Bob Hainzer Chris Hainzer Eve Housley	<b>Rich Nichols-chair</b> Sue Geary Stephen Brick Isaiah Brick	<b>Jonathan Hillegas -chair</b> Renee Hillegas Tina Beistel Gary Cameron

## Nursery Volunteers:

April 12	Sue Willison & Chris Hainzer
April 19	Melanie & CJ Downing
April 26	Christy & Taylor Fetterman
May 3	Suzy & Eve Housley



## Lancaster Theological Seminary is April's Mission Offering



**Lancaster**  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Lancaster Theological Seminary has been equipping the church with pastoral and lay leaders since 1825. Lancaster Theological Seminary, a graduate school affiliated with the United Church of Christ, is known for academic excellence, celebration of differences across Christian traditions, and creative engagement on issues important to our world. Lancaster Seminary's mission is to educate and nurture leaders to join in God's redemptive and liberating work so that all creation may flourish. St. Paul's has benefitted from our historical partnership with Lancaster Theological Seminary in the form of calling a number of their graduates as pastors and taking part in other educational opportunities. Please consider supporting this important mission partner.



## Help needed to upgrade and refresh St. Paul's Nursery facility!



We could use monetary donations and new or gently used donations of puzzles and toys, including the Little People Series like Noah's Ark. Also, chunky puzzles for younger toddlers would be appreciated. We do not need the following items at this time: baby bouncers, blocks, or infant swings. We would appreciate receiving any donations (monetary or toys) by the end of April. Please designate your offering envelope "Nursery Refresh" and leave any donated toys in the Library

Extension across from Dave Neimiller's office. Thank you so much!

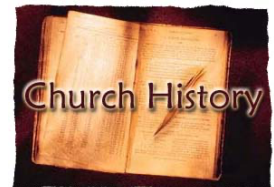


**Sunday School classes** are available for all ages and run from 10:45-11:45am each Sunday.

**Weekly Bible Study** will resume on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Salem Chapel.

**"These Days" devotionals** The April-June devotionals have arrived! They are available at both entrances to the Sanctuary as well as on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. Thank you for your patience!

**Church History 101** - Join Pastor Matt for an exploration of how moments in the church's past can inform our present and future. Sessions are held 9:30-10:30am in the Youth Room. Please join us for our next session, this Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be "The Church Reformed & Reforming."



# Join us for VBS!

June 15-19, 2026

9am-noon

Calling all Challengers... it's time for "Snowball Mountain Challenge" VBS, where kids are invited to an exciting winter sports event to gear up for frosty games, snowy surprises, and hands-on lessons about resilience and faith! They will come to realize that with the strength God provides, they can share their gifts, be brave, give their all, pray, and hope.

- Classes are available for kids age 3 through completed Grade 6.
- Free lunch will be provided for all kids each day after VBS.
- Youth and adult volunteers are also welcome and needed!
- Scan the QR code below or pick up a paper form from the church office to register. (There is no fee to attend or volunteer.)

Talk to Amanda for more information or if you have any questions.





## Living Waters Church Camp

Living Waters is an inter-denominational Christian camp affiliated with the United Church of Christ located in Schellsburg, PA. For over 55 years, Living Waters has provided a safe, welcoming environment for people of all ages to grow in faith and create lifelong friendships. Their programs offer an opportunity for campers to build a strong Christian community together while exploring nature, their relationship with God, and one another. The camping theme for this year is “Trustin’ Jesus” and the following camps are being offered:

Fishing Camp: Grades 5-12 (June 28 - July 2)  
Primary Camp: K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (July 5-11)  
Elementary Camp: 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (July 5-11)  
Jr./Sr. High Camp: 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade (July 12-18)  
Grandparent & Grandchild Camp (July 12-15)

\*Financial scholarships are available to help offset the cost of camp registration.

\* This year an incentive is being offered for early registrations. Campers who register by **Friday, April 24th, 2026** will receive a special Camp Living Waters souvenir!  
Visit [livingwaterscamp.org](http://livingwaterscamp.org) for more information or to register.