
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Somerset, PA

Sunday, May 10, 2026

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*

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 Friends & Family,

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. (John 14:15-16)

I hope you've had the experience of having a special helper in your life who has been a listening ear, an emotional support, and giver of wisdom. For many of us, we've been blessed with not just one such individual, but various persons who have offered us guidance and support as we've encountered all the growing edges that come with living life. Grandparents, a few special teachers, my parents, and several friends and mentors have provided support and guidance to me during the various seasons of my life.

Jesus was a very special person to those who knew him. He was a teacher, a mentor, God-in-the-flesh, and a friend. And like most of those special people who come into our lives, he wouldn't be around forever. Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure by promising them the presence of another helper, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit to always be with them. The ancient words which Jesus used to describe the Advocate and the Spirit, *paraclete* and *pnuema*, indicated the intimate and life-giving relationship of God abiding by our side (*para*) and within us as breath (*pnuema*). In other words, as long as we are drawing a breath, God is breathing the Holy Spirit into us. We are never alone because God is filling us with the Spirit to remind us of who we are and to whom we belong.

The unique thing about the special helpers in our lives is not so much what they do for us, but how they make us feel. Do you remember the love and acceptance you felt when you were in their presence? God's presence within us is best understood as love. The wholeness and

abundant life that Christ brings is the assurance that no matter what happens in our lives, all will be well because we have a home in God. May such love not only bind you to God, but to one another as members of Christ's body.

Blessings on your journey,
Pastor Matt

Here are our worship opportunities for this weekend:

Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary and on Facebook and YouTube: 9:30am

The Order of Worship for Sunday, May 10, 2026—The Sixth Sunday of Easter— The Festival of the Christian Home

Prelude

Call to Worship

Rev. Nancy Townley

Leader: We long for community and the Presence of God.

All: In whom we live and move and have our being.

L: This day Christ tells us that we will never be alone. An Advocate will share our journey.

All: With whom we will live and create community and celebrate being.

L: May the ever present love of God be with you.

All: And may the joy of Christ surround you.

L: May we know the presence of the Advocate as we gather in this community of peace, continuing to share the cost of discipleship with deeds of bold mercy and courageous justice.

All: As an Easter People following a Risen Lord, may the life of Jesus live on in us and through us. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

90

*Greeting

Call to Confession

(Adapted from portions of Psalm 118)

L: O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good!

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

L: We shall not die, because God's hand saves!

All: Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Nancy Townley

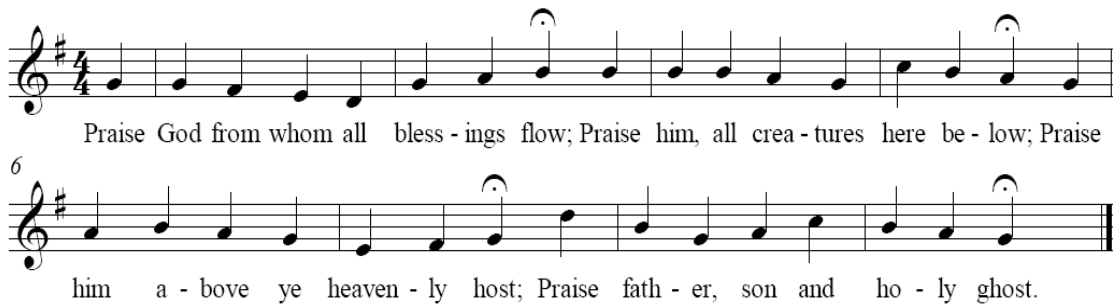
Holy Helper, it seems, at times, we forget that you know us at our very depth. We become anxious and afraid that you are not with us, and that our lives have lacked meaning and purpose. You have called us to great things, but we focus instead on what we lack, rather than on Whose we are. By your mercy, help us to live out the commandments of Christ beyond these walls, beyond this hour, and in so doing, may we become for the world the very presence of justice, hope and peace. In Jesus' name we pray, amen. A time for personal reflection and confession.

a time for personal reflection and confession

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.

A Mother's Day Litany

L: To those who gave birth this year to their first child—

All: we celebrate with you.

L: To those who lost a child this year —

All: we mourn with you.

L: To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains —

All: we appreciate you.

L: To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—

All: we mourn with you.

L: To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment —

All: we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.

L: To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms —

All: we need you.

L: To those who have warm and close relationships with your children —

All: we celebrate with you.

L: To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children —

All: we sit with you.

L: To those who lost their mothers this year —

All: we grieve with you.

L: To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother —

All: we acknowledge your experience.

L: To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood —

All: we are better for having you in our midst.

L: To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children –

All: we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.

L: To those who stepparent –

All: we walk with you on these complex paths.

L: To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be –

All: we grieve with you.

L: To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year –

All: we grieve and rejoice with you.

L: And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising –

All: we anticipate with you.

L: This Mother’s Day, we walk with you. Parenting is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst.

All: We remember you. Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

66

*Benediction

*Organ Interlude and Extinguishing of the Candles

Postlude

(*) Standing for those who are able.

Copyright licenses for today’s music can be found in the church office. Music is covered under ONELICENSE.net and/or has permission granted by the composer or publishing house.

Greeters and Ushers:

May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Andra Snyder- chair	Melanie Downing- chair	Adam Shaffer- chair	Jonathan Hillegas-chair
Kurt Weaver	Wynne Sechler	Kate Shaffer	Dale Snyder
Debi Weaver	CJ Downing	Aiden Shaffer	Don Zuccolotto
Gary Cameron	Lisa Yeckley	Stephen Brick	Rich Nichols

Nursery Volunteers:

May 10	Diana Laue & Kirsten Thomas
May 17	Debi Weaver & Taylor Fetterman
May 24	Becky & Kendall Smith
May 31	Corey & Alice Whaley



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



Bible Study

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

Weekly Bible Study please join us every Tuesday at 10am in Salem Chapel.

Quarterly Giving Statements are now available. Please pick yours up from the table in the back of the sanctuary. The remaining statements will be mailed out next week.

St. Paul's Continuing Care Community is May's Mission Offering.

St. Paul's, historically related to the United Church of Christ, has been serving the needs of residents of western Pennsylvania and the surrounding states for 150 years. Our congregation has a history of supporting the work and mission of St. Paul's Continuing Care Community. Through our continued support of St. Paul's mission, we are realizing Jesus Christ's call to love God and neighbor.



Congratulations to St. Paul's Quilters!

We join in celebrating our quilting group's wonderful showing at the Maple Festival Quilt Show. They represented us well, bringing home 1 blue ribbon, 3 red ribbons, and 3 white ribbons! In addition to our St. Paul's Quilters Group, **our own Taylor and Tristyn Fetterman** received white and red ribbons respectively for their quilts! Congratulations to all!



Come on down to Connections Café!

Please join us **this Sunday, May 10th**, downstairs in the fellowship hall following worship to connect and catch up with others in our faith family and enjoy a snack & coffee. This has been a long-running, fun and meaningful ministry here, and we need your help to keep it going. **Please consider hosting a Sunday, making baked goods/providing snacks, or giving a monetary donation** (denote "Connections Café" on your envelope). Hosts are needed from the end of May through the remainder of the year. If you are willing to host an upcoming Sunday, please put your name on the scheduling display found in Fellowship Hall or speak with Andra Snyder (814-233-0642). Thank you!



Meals on Wheels Desserts – We need volunteers!

St. Paul's dessert week is May 18 - May 22.



Monday, May 18 - 9X13/bundt cakes
Tuesday, May 19 - cookies
Wednesday, May 20 - quick breads
Thursday, May 21 - angel food cakes
Friday, May 22 – muffins/cupcakes

The desserts are basic - no icing, nuts, or chocolate. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. This is a community service that we have provided for many years. 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. Call or text Pam Webreck with any questions (814-442-6646).

Your Opportunity to Minister to Your Neighbor: Introducing St. Paul's Ministry Teams!

Jesus sent his disciples into the world to baptize, preach, and teach. Since that moment almost 2,000 years ago, the church has discerned how best to join in Christ's saving work. Ministry is the act of caring for the world and our neighbors by trying to emulate Jesus' acts of mercy, love, and grace. We are launching a new way of embodying Jesus' actions by initiating three new ministry teams at our church! Church Council members are coordinating each team, and they will be approaching church members and friends to help lead them. Over the next month, we will highlight each team's work and how you can help to do Christ's work in our church & world.

Today we meet our **Fellowship Team: Abiding Together In Christ's Body!**

Members of this team will help to plan and invite others to take part in events that bring together members of our church and community. Current events that align with the Fellowship Team's mission include: Mardi Gras, Love for the World, Share the Light, the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, and Connections Café. Melanie Downing and Diana Laue are the Church Council members who are coordinating this team's work. Please speak to them or Pastor Matt if you'd like to take part in Fellowship Team

Keystone Conference Annual Meeting: St. Paul's Needs Voting Delegates!



Keystone
CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The historic first meeting of the Keystone Conference of the UCC will take place June 5-7, 2026 at Millersville University, Lancaster, PA. St. Paul's is entitled to have 4 delegates represent us. Please talk to Pastor Matt if you'd like to be a delegate, attending either on Zoom or in person. Here's a look at what

should be an uplifting and educational weekend.

The theme is "Joy at the Table Together" and will feature Acts 2:46-47 as the centering scripture: "Every day they met together, breaking bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God." The meeting will include a Service of Consecration for the Keystone Conference.

Speakers will include Rev. Dr. Marcia McFee, author of *Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship for Unforgettable Messages*; Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ; Rev. Dr. Mary Luti, author of *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*; Rev. Greg Edwards, Executive Director of POWER Interfaith; Secretary Russell Redding, PA Secretary of Agriculture; and Rev. Freeman Palmer, Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference.

2026 High School & College Graduates

Please let us know if you will be graduating this year! We would like to honor you by placing your graduation photo and bio in our display case. Graduate bio forms are on the Information Table in the narthex. Please email the information along with your photo to stpaulsuccoffice1@gmail.com or return the form to the church office.



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!



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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 - July2)
- Primary Camp: K-3rd Grade (July 5-11)
- Elementary Camp: 4th – 6th Grade (July 5-11)
- Jr./Sr. High Camp: 7th – 12th Grade (July 12-18)
- Grandparent & Grandchild Camp (July 12-15)

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



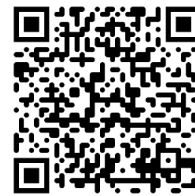
Join us for VBS!

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!
- There is no fee to attend or volunteer!

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



Scan here to
register a child!

VBS Donations Needed!

We will need the following materials for VBS crafts this year:

- Cardboard toilet paper tubes
- Snow/winter-themed wrapping paper
- Cans with lids (like Pringles, baby formula, peanuts, breadcrumbs, powdered drink mixes, small oatmeal boxes, etc.)
- Heavy, clear, plastic drink bottles

If you are able to donate any of these items, please bring them to the church and put them in the donation box in the C.E. room **no later than June 7th**.

You can also help by purchasing some supplies from our online wishlist. The items can be shipped directly to the church.

Visit <https://wishlist.com/ls/ld11NJ> or scan the code here.

Thank you for your help!

