
THIS WEEK'S NEWS

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Somerset, PA

Sunday, May 31, 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

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Savior!

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,"
(Genesis 1:1)*

The act of creating has always been something that has intrigued me. An artist sketching a portrait, a poet penning captivating lines, or a welder creating a fix to something that seemed irreparably broken have always seemed like small miracles to me. I've sat captivated watching my children pretend—create—a very life-like reality in their minds of toys come to life and the impossible made possible. The human mind and imagination are certainly powerful things!

We find God creating in the Old Testament text for this Sunday. The creation story as told in Genesis chapter one is both ancient and intimate in that we get to watch God at work doing what God does best, creating! We don't know why God is creating, but simply that he is creating. The Creation Story not only introduces

us to the creator of everything but acquaints us with the one who commissions us to be co-creators and caregivers of all creation. Deep within each of us is the Creator's ability to create life and nurture a world where all of creation is cherished and honored.

The many challenges of our present moment are not insurmountable. We can meet them by the grace of God and through creative acts of love, grace, reconciliation, and forgiveness. In other words, a more just and loving world is in within our grasp if only we use our imaginations and create it.

May God bless and keep you as you join in the continual creative work of Christ that bring life, health, and hope to our world!

Blessings and Peace,
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 31, 2026—Trinity Sunday

Prelude

Call to Worship

Rev. Nancy Townley

Leader: Let us remember what our God has done!

All: God created the world out of a formless void.

L: Let us remember what our God has done!

All: God made every animal and plant, bird and fish.

L: Let us remember what our God has done!

All: God created people in the image of God.

L: Let us remember what our God has done!

All: God has made us caretakers of the earth.

L: Let us complete our task in faithfulness.

*Opening Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

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*Greeting

Call to Confession

Rev. J.M. Deal

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

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Nancy Townley

We confess this day, O merciful God, that we have not always acted in just ways nor sought justice for our friends and neighbors. We have found it easy to turn our backs on problems rather than seeking to be a solution to them. We have heard of the many ways in which you have demonstrated peace with justice through the ministries of your Son, yet we have given only sporadic attention to them. Forgive us, Lord. Heal our selfishness and brokenness. Cause us to be witnesses to your great love as shown to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

a time for personal reflection and confession

Kyrie

Leader: Lord have mer - cy. Congregation: Lord have mer - cy. Leader: Christ have mer - cy.
 Congregation: Christ have mer - cy. Leader: Lord have mer - cy on us. Congregation: Lord have mer - cy on us.

Words of Assurance

Rev. Susan Blain

L: This is the good news: Christ died for us that we might have life. We are called to give our lives to ministries of justice. God is with us in this and all righteous endeavors.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”

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Today’ Scripture Lesson

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Sermon

“Remember”

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
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him a - bove ye heaven - ly host; Praise fath - er, son and ho - ly ghost.

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. J. M. Deal

Ever-present and loving God, your Word tells us to cast our cares on you because you care for us. In faith and trust we present these gifts, and ourselves, to you. Bless and multiply them to meet the needs, both hidden and apparent, of your beloved ones. Inspire each of us to live as Christ's witnesses, today and ever more. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. 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

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

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*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

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:

May 31	June 7 Communion	June 14	June 21
Jonathan Hillegas* Dale Snyder Don Zuccolotto Rich Nichols	Ray Toy* Missy Toy Gary Cameron	Melanie Downing* Wynne Sechler CJ Downing Henry Cook	Christy Fetterman* Roy Fetterman Trevor Fetterman Audrey Hay

*chair

Nursery Volunteers:

May 31	Corey & Alice Whaley
June 7	Kruz & Paige Shumaker
June 14	Gretchen & Colten Pritts
June 21	Jenn Boland & Taylor Fetterman



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

Bible Study **Weekly Bible Study** Bible Study for this Tuesday, June 2nd is cancelled. We will resume our weekly study on June 9th.

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.

Come on down to Connections Café!



Please join us **this Sunday, May 31st**, 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!

2026 High School & College Graduates

Graduate Recognition Sunday is June 28th!

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.



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!





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-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.

Visit livingwaterscamp.org for more information or to register.