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# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

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St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Somerset, PA

Sunday, June 7, 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 Friends & Family,

*"I desire mercy, not sacrifice." (Matthew 9:13b)*

This week's gospel lesson is an unexpected synopsis of Jesus' ministry. We are also given some key insights into his motivation for ministry. A lot happens in 14 verses. Jesus calls a disciple, gets criticized by the religious experts for eating with sinners and tax collectors, sets those religious officials strait, accidentally heals a chronically sick woman, and finishes it all off by resurrecting the deceased daughter of the local synagogue leader.

Jesus' response to the Pharisees (the religious law experts) who were criticizing him for hanging out with the religiously suspect was to remind them that he desired mercy and not sacrifice. His calling was to minister to those who had been deemed undesirable by the religious establishment. Jesus challenged religious boundaries by calling a tax collector, Matthew, to be one of his disciples. Jesus would have been deemed unclean, unfit for

worship and leadership, after he was touched by the chronically hemorrhaging woman, healing her, and after he had laid his hands upon the dead child, raising her to life.

Mercy is what motivated Jesus. Mercy from God that restored health and life to those who were considered beyond help. Mercy that brought Matthew and his tax collecting friends, and scores of sinners into God's fold. Jesus, throughout his life, made it his mission to restore the socially outcast, the poor, the sick, and the religiously estranged to fellowship with God. Jesus claimed them for his own as disciples, friends, and beloved neighbors. There was not judgement, only mercy.

The difficult irony when considering Jesus' life is that we as modern believers still struggle with welcoming those who are different than ourselves into the fellowship of faith. We too often readily go along with the fissures that divide society. Outrage has been made into a profitable product peddled by political pundits, politicians, media influencers, and unfortunately, more than just a few pastors. The result is that we've learned to fear "the other" so much that we've lost sight of the fact that "the other" are part of us, our neighbors and God's beloved. They represent diverse world views, belief systems, sexual orientations, economic conditions, identities, occupations, ages, and races. While some preach judgement that leads to division, Jesus preaches mercy that leads to inclusion and grace. May we boldly share the gift of God's mercy with others, so that they too can experience the love and grace that brought us into the community of Christ's beloved 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, June 7, 2026—The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

### Prelude

#### Call to Worship

*(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 worship God our redeemer and Savior.**

#### \*Opening Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

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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 admit, O God, that we hear your call. You call us to follow you and be your disciples. You lay claim on our lives and call us to share ourselves with the world, to offer ourselves so that others may experience abundant life. And yet, we withhold our gifts. Forgive us when we allow fear to limit the good work that you do in us. Transform us so that we may care for your starving, hurting, searching world. Create in us willing spirits so that the saving work of your son may continue through us. In Jesus' name we pray, 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

*adapted from Psalm 86:10, 16*

L: O God, you do great and wondrous things!

**All: Turn to me and be gracious to me; grant your servant strength and salvation.**

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

## 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

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

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## Today’ Scripture Lesson

**Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.” While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread through all of that district.

## Sermon

“Who Can Be Saved?”

## Pastoral Prayer

## Prayer Response



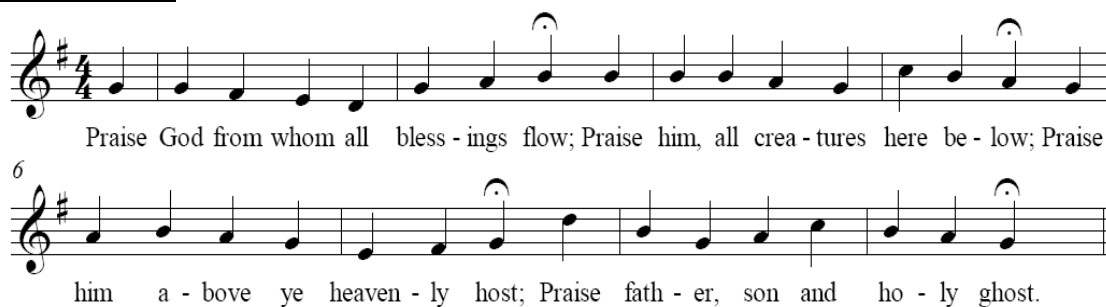
Come - and fill all my life, come - and fill all - my life.

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

***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.***

## The Liturgy of Holy Communion

### \*The Invitation

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

***All: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south and gather at Christ's table.***

P: This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

### The Communion Prayer

P: God be with you.

***All: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***All: We lift them to God!***

P: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

***All: It is right to give God thanks and praise!***

P: We give thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere and that you remain faithful to your covenant, even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the good news. Born of Mary, our sister in faith, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in Glory! We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of the Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered. With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy.

#### The Sanctus

“Glastonbury Acclamations”

(arr. Walker)

P: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of the Passover.

Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also the cup, after supper saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

***All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.***

P: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ’s suffering and death, rejoicing in Christ’s resurrection, and awaiting Christ’s return in victory. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth of our labor. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, on our gifts, and on us. Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

***All: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.***

The Prayer of Our Savior (unison):

***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.***

The Breaking of Bread and Pouring Wine

P: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ. The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

The Call to Supper

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready.

***(\*\*Please alert an usher if you need us to bring Communion to you or a gluten free wafer.)***

The Sharing of the Elements

P: Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you.

**All: Amen!**

P: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

**All: Amen!**

\*The Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

***Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen***

Closing Hymn

“My Hope is Built”

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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

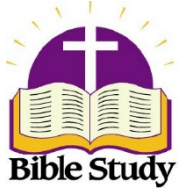
**Greeters and Ushers:**

June 7 Communion	June 14	June 21	June 28
Ray Toy* Missy Toy Gary Cameron	Melanie Downing* Wynne Sechler CJ Downing Henry Cook	Christy Fetterman* Roy Fetterman Trevor Fetterman Audrey Hay	Diana Laue* Mike Stutzman Suzy Housley Sally McClintock

\*chair

## Nursery Volunteers:

June 7	Kruz & Paige Shumaker
June 14	Gretchen & Colten Pritts
June 21	Jenn Boland & Taylor Fetterman



**Weekly Bible Study** will resume this Tuesday at 10am in the Youth Room. All are welcome to join us!

## The Somerset Area Food Pantry is June's Mission Offering

Our local food pantry serves our food insecure neighbors in the Somerset and Rockwood Area School Districts. Your monetary offering will go to help purchase the food that they give out to food insecure neighbors every week. Your support is greatly appreciated!



## Special Offering for Trinity UCC, Dorseyville

On Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> a fire broke out at Trinity UCC, Dorseyville, just north of Pittsburgh. The main portion of the building that housed the sanctuary sustained heavy fire and water damage. **This is the last Sunday that we will be collecting a special mission offering to help our friends at Trinity.** If you'd like to contribute, please note "Trinity Fire" on your check or offering envelope. Thanks in advance for your generosity!

## Come on down to Connections Café!



There will be no Connections Café this Sunday due to a lack of a sponsor for this week. 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 28<sup>th</sup>!

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](mailto:stpaulsuccoffice1@gmail.com) or return the form to the church office.



## Altar Flower Sponsors Needed

We have altar flower sponsorship opportunities for August 26<sup>th</sup> of this year, and the following Sundays moving forward: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in March, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in May, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in September, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in October. Please contact Vicki Zuccolotto if you would like to purchase the flowers for one (or more) of these dates (814-233-7333).

## Join us for VBS! June 15-19



- ❄️ 9am - noon each day
- ❄️ Classes available for kids age 3 - completed Grade 6
- ❄️ Free lunch will for all kids each day after VBS.
- ❄️ Youth and adult volunteers are welcome and needed!
- ❄️ Participants will have the opportunity to go on an off-site field trip to the International Conservation Center in Fairhope after VBS on Thursday.
- ❄️ There is no fee to attend or volunteer!



Scan here to register a child.



## 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.

Visit [livingwaterscamp.org](http://livingwaterscamp.org) for more information or to register.

## **Fundraisers to Benefit Local Teen**

Unity UCC will be holding the following fundraising events to benefit one of their youth members, Elliott Fairman, who was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. If you would like to support the Fairman family during this challenging time, please consider taking part in these events.



### **Basket Raffle at Unity UCC (2074 Huckleberry Highway, Berlin)**

Friday, June 19 – 5-7pm

Saturday, June 20 – 9am-7pm

Sunday, June 21 – 9am-2pm

Drawing will be held around 2pm. Do not need to be present to win.

Contact Jeannie Custer (814-701-6281) or Ally Warren (814-444-2904) to coordinate basket donations or with questions.

### **Concession Stand at the Glades Highlands Antique Iron Association Tractor Show**

Saturday, June 20 at the Unity UCC Grove (2074 Huckleberry Highway, Berlin)

10am – 4pm

Burgers & More!

### **Father's Day Chicken BBQ**

Sunday, June 21 at the church social hall (2074 Huckleberry Highway, Berlin)

11:30am until sold out, eat-in and take-out available.

½ chicken - \$10

½ chicken dinner (comes with 2 sides and a roll) - \$12

Hot dogs - \$1.50

Additional sides - \$1

Drinks and desserts available for separate purchase.