



Celebrate St. Paul's!



139 years of service

133 Church St. P.O. Box 177 Bowmansville, Pa. 17507 717-445-6256
www.stpaulsucchurch.org Sunday Worship 10:30 am

Volume 21, Number 8
September 2025

What's Inside?

Pancakes @ Paul's

Seasons of Change

Book of the Month

Next Quilt
Blessing

Carpet Cleaning

Filling Food Bank
Orders



“DIFFERENT AS NIGHT AND DAY”

Can some things, or some people, be so entirely different that they are practically opposites...as different as night and day... and yet still be “equal” in the eyes of God?



Nature itself will give us a beautiful, metaphorical, answer to that question on September 22nd this year. On that date, the Fall Equinox, the center of the sun will cross precisely over the equator, moving from north to south. And on that date, God’s creations known as night and day, will be measurably equal.

When you think of the beauty of a sunrise, or the dazzling beauty of a starry starry night, it is easy to believe that both are loved by their Creator.

And yet, if we’re being honest, it is not always easy to believe that is true about each other.

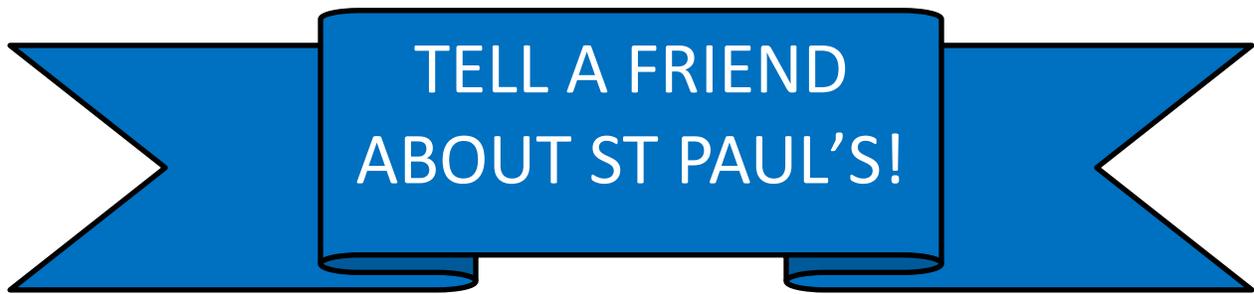
This Fall Equinox, this beautiful change of seasons, is as good a time as any to have a change of heart...and to remind ourselves of God’s immeasurable, benevolent, agape’ love for all of his children. And remember that despite our differences, we are called—in fact, commanded!—to love one another.

Phil

“God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.” Genesis 1:5

Mission Statement

We, the congregation of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, who have accepted the gift of love and salvation through Jesus Christ, strive to take this message into the world through our prayers, words and deeds. We invite all people to accept these gifts with us.



“First Sunday Blessing”

September 7th

A special service of music and devotions to start off our month.

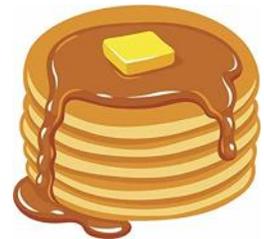
Everyone is welcome and bring a friend!

“Pancakes at Paul’s”

***FREE Community Breakfast
at St. Paul’s UCC Church
September 1st***

1st Monday of every month 6-9am

***Pancakes Sausage Coffee Juice Toast & Homemade Jelly
(featuring the world’s best sausage)***



St. Paul’s UCC Fellowship Hall

133 Church Street, Bowmansville, Pa. 17507

more info call 717-445-6256

Seasons of Change, Signs of Grace

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22, NASB).

As autumn begins, we watch the world transform before our eyes. Leaves change color, the air turns crisp, and a new rhythm settles in. In these seasonal shifts, we are reminded of God’s faithful hand over all of creation.

Genesis 8:22 assures us that the cycles of nature—seedtime and harvest, summer and winter—are part of God’s ongoing promise. Each season speaks of His order, care, and presence. Autumn, in particular, invites reflection. Just as the trees release their leaves, we are called to let go of what no longer serves us and make space for renewal.

This season also marks a return to routines—school schedules, church programs, and community events. As we step into new responsibilities or revisit familiar ones, may we do so with gratitude and trust. God is not only present in the harvest but in the quiet letting go.

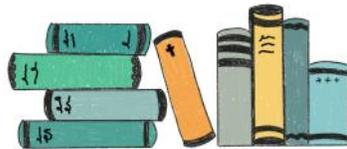
Let this autumn be a time to embrace God’s steady rhythm, find beauty in change, and rest in His faithful promises that never cease—even as the world around us shifts.



Looking Ahead

September 1	Labor Day Pancakes @ Paul's
September 14	Quilt Blessing Consistory Meeting
September 18	Fill Food Bank Orders
October 5	Communion Neighbors In Need Offering
October 6	Pancakes @ Paul's
October 16	Fill Food Bank Orders
October 31	Halloween

Church Library; Book of the Month



This month's recommendation is titled "*Dancing From Darkness*" by Eleanor Isaacson. It is the true story of an American born child who was abandoned as a toddler in Nazi Germany, who survived bombings in WW2, starvation, Russian occupation and many hardships before reaching her teens.

Eleanor had no rearing in a Christian home but had the profound feeling of "an invisible friend" whose presence had kept her sane. She finds out that this presence is her heavenly Father. During WW2 Eleanor and her aunt are saved by "a voice" that directs her and her aunt to go to a safe place where they haven't planned to go. Many other events happen in Eleanor's life (including dancing) that are too implausible for fiction.

This book is a must read.

Eleanor wasn't raised in our area but she wound up buying a house at the Willow Valley Community later in her life.

Any questions or comments, please see Jane Hoshour. 3

Consistory News

The next **Quilt Blessing** is scheduled for Sunday, September 14th during regular worship time. The completed quilts will be placed upon the rails at the front of the church and a blessing will be shared with the congregation.



After this, they will be downstairs in the café area for anyone in need of some comfort and healing.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please see Ron Frederick or Dee Sprecher.

Carpet Cleaning will be taking place on Thursday, September 11th on the first floor and upstairs in the sanctuary. Please be careful if you need to be in the church that day.



The next **consistory meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, September 14th, immediately following the worship service. If you are unable to attend please notify Charlie Storms.



Quote to Share:

"Truth is mightier than eloquence; the spirit stronger than genius; faith greater than learning."

—Martin Luther

Prayer Concerns: We will be updating our prayer list monthly by starting a new list at the beginning of every month.

Please continue to review the list and if there are any updates during the month please contact Phil Shober or Dee

Sprecher. We also have prayer request cards located in the parlor room and in the pews upstairs for your convenience. You can fill out the request and turn it in to the church office or place it in the offering plate.

As you continue your own prayers and concerns outside of the sanctuary this week, please remember the concerns we have raised as a community.

Our list of recent prayer concerns.

Bill, Charlie, David, Edna, Gerri, Gretchen, Jean, Joyce, Kathi, Lisa, Marian, Barb's family, Dale's family, Jen's family, Mike's family, the Weaver family, Otto-Eldred High School on the passing of one of their students, peace in Gaza and Ukraine, for everyone affected by the recent hurricanes, and thankful for our family and friends.



Suggested Prayer... "Most gracious and loving God, we lift up our list of prayer concerns this day and every day that all who are listed might know and feel your presence with them in their time of need. God, continue in your support for all of our friends and family listed and those who are forever in our hearts so that they might feel you with them each day, Amen."

If you would like to ask for prayers for someone please contact Kieran Connelly. Below is a list of the individuals on our Prayer Team that will pray for you throughout the week.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Kieran Connelly | 717-471-5018 |
| Lynda Cooper | |
| Gretchen Martin | Jane Hoshour |
| Gerri Shober | Nancy Caffrey-Schafer |
| Steve Renninger | Chris Storms |
| Phil Shober | Donna Ozga |

Caring for Our Members

Please remember our members and friends in your prayers. Many in retirement villages and their homes are unable to attend church due to the pandemic and other health concerns.



Mary Tamerius
Faithful Living
2015 N. Reading
Road Room 156
Denver, Pa. 17517

Alta Hoshour
Ephrata Manor
99 Bethany Rd
Room# 123A
Ephrata, Pa 17522
717-209-0509

Betty Musser
566 Springville Rd
Apt 106
New Holland, Pa. 17557

Pastoral Visits or Emergencies



If anyone is in need of pastoral assistance please contact Phil Shober anytime via text or call at 610-780-3915 or email philipshober@gmail.com. You can also call the church office at 717-445-6256 or email the church secretary at dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org.

The People's Pantry

It will be our turn to fill the orders at the food bank in Terre Hill on Thursday, September 18th. If you would like to help please see Nancy Connelly.

Below is a list of the current needs requested for the food bank in Terre Hill.

Canned Vegetables;

Green Beans, Corn, Peas, Creamed Corn

Unscented Laundry Detergent

Any donations can be placed on the table by the side door entrance.

Updated Needs

Thank you for your continued support.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

September

- 7 Jeff Sprecher
- 8 Vincent Borja
- 14 Sue Klaassen Kuzniar



Anniversaries

Phil & Gerri Shoher –
44 years on September 12



Bible Quiz



Timothy was a young man who became a trusted companion and co-worker of the apostle Paul. Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him the Scriptures.
- B. Paul considered Timothy his spiritual son.
- C. Timothy was born in Rome and raised as a Roman citizen.
- D. Paul wrote two New Testament letters addressed to Timothy.



Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for
July 2025

Checking & MM Accounts

Beginning Balance	\$125,034.35
+ Receipts	7,188.41
- Disbursements	5,391.20
Ending Balance	\$126,831.56

A copy of this information can also be found at
the mailboxes in the slot marked financial reports.

July's offering only total was \$5,472.00.

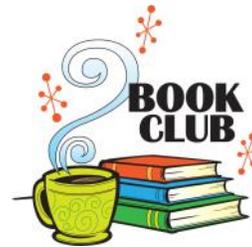


Literary Ladies Bookclub

St. Paul's Ladies Literary
Bookclub meets the last
Monday of each month.

The meeting is held on zoom and begins at 6:30 PM.

If you're interested in joining contact
Gerri at 717-575-1720.



Bible Study Update

The Ladies have begun a
series, *Jesus and Women
In the First Century and
Now*, by Kristi McLelland

(<https://www.lifeway.com/en/contributors/kristi-mclelland>)

This series includes a short video followed by a lesson and discussion. They meet in the café area.

The men have recently started a new series titled, *"Exploring Sacred Music"*. This study explores how traditional and modern Christian music is rooted in scripture. The series is expected to continue until December. They meet in the fellowship hall area.

Both groups gather on the second Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Anyone is welcome. If interested or you have any questions please see Gerri or Phil Shober.



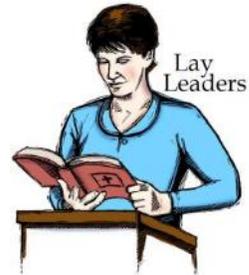
Online Worship: We are holding worship services in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

If you would like to watch our service live on YouTube please click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUzTE3jCqaDyG2WlUzaX9w/live>



Monthly Volunteers



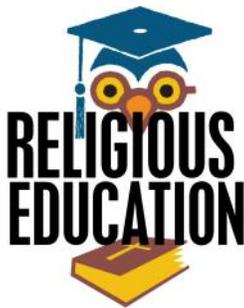
September 7 Dee Sprecher
 September 14 Cheryl Borja
 September 21 Sara Renninger
 September 28 Gerri Shober

September 7 Lynda Cooper
 September 14 Charlie Storms
 September 21 Tim Lutz
 September 28 Grace Shober

October 5 Judy Enck **
 October 12 Mary Renninger
 October 19 Dee Sprecher
 October 26 Cheryl Borja

October 5 Julie Schulz
 October 12 Gerri Shober
 October 19 Barry Gehman
 October 26 Mary Renninger

** Indicates communion



September 7 FSB—no class
 September 14 Jane Hoshour
 September 21 Children's Storytime –Grace
 September 28 Cheryl Borja

Nursery available as needed

October 5 FSB—no class
 October 12 Gerri Shober
 October 19 Children's Storytime –Grace
 October 26 Jane Hoshour

Sponsors



September 7	open
September 14	open
September 21	open
September 28	open
October 5	open
October 12	open
October 19	open
October 26	open

Christian Symbol



BURNING BUSH — In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses from a bush that is burning but not consumed. When Moses asks what he should say if the Egyptians questions who sent him to lead the Israelites out of slavery, God states, "I AM WHO I AM." Centuries later, when people wonder who Jesus is, his answers hint at his divinity: "I AM the light of the world; I AM the good shepherd; I AM the bread of life" and, perhaps most profoundly, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). On Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit comes upon the apostles as fire. Thus the burning bush is a powerful symbol of God's presence echoed through time.

Altar Flowers

If you are interested in sponsoring flowers on a particular Sunday, please see Dee Sprecher.



Forms are available in the church office for you to fill in your dedication information at least one week prior to the Sunday you would like to have it included.

We are no longer ordering real flowers due to the cost. If you prefer real flowers you must order them yourself, otherwise we will use the artificial flowers we have.

Thank you.

St Paul's UCC *Celebrate*

A publication of St. Paul's UCC
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St Paul's UCC *Celebrate* is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of programs of the church and to report news about the community and its people.

Deadline for article submissions: The third Sunday of each month.

SEPTEMBER 2025




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Pancakes @ Paul's	2	3 Piano lessons 4:30-5:30 pm	4	5	6
7 First Sunday Blessing 10:30	8	9	10 Piano lessons 4:30-5:30 pm Men's & Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm	11 Patriot Day	12	13
14 Worship 10:30 Quilt Blessing Consistory Meeting	15	16	17 Piano lessons 4:30-5:30 pm	18 Choir Practice 7pm Fill Food Bank Orders	19	20
21 Worship 10:30	22 First day of Fall Book Club 6:30	23	24 Piano lessons 4:30-5:30 pm	25	26	27
28 Worship 10:30	29	30				