



# Celebrate St. Paul's!



140 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 22, Number 4  
April 2026

## What's Inside?

Pancakes at Paul's

Basket Bingo

Book of the Month

Easter Week  
Happenings

Church Directory  
Update



### *"THE JOY WE SHARE"*

Pearl Renninger's favorite hymn is the beautiful "I Come to the Garden Alone". This stunning song was written in 1912 not too far from here in Pitman, NJ, by C. Austin Miles.

Although there are no names given in the song, the lyrics are full of pronouns: I, my, me, we, he, and his. So who is this song actually about?

It turns out, Mr. Miles had been reading his bible, in the gospel of John chapter 20, and the story of Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morning.

Mary Magdalene, previously demon possessed and a social outcast, was the first person to the tomb that morning. She arrived at the garden before sunrise—while the dew was still on the roses. When Jesus appeared, she didn't recognize him at first (she thought he was the gardener). But when he spoke..."Mary"...the voice she heard falling on her ear, was the Son of God.

Yes, that amazing hymn is about Mary Magdalene walking and talking with the risen Jesus on that first Easter morning.

And the joy they shared was like none other had ever known. And Jesus has made that joy...His Joy....available to all of us, too.

Have a Happy Easter and a great month.  
Phil

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete". John 15:11



Joy Comes in the Morning:  
*Easter Sunday*

### 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.

# TELL A FRIEND ABOUT ST PAUL'S!

## *“First Sunday Blessing”*

April 5th

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

Everyone is welcome and bring a friend!

## *“Pancakes at Paul’s”*

*FREE Community Breakfast  
at St. Paul’s UCC Church  
April 6th*



*1st Monday of every month 6-9am*

*Pancakes Sausage Coffee Juice Toast & Homemade Jelly*

St. Paul’s UCC Fellowship Hall

133 Church Street, Bowmansville, Pa. 17507

more info call 717-445-6256

## *Basket Bingo*

When: April 25th, 2026  
Where: St. Paul’s Church fellowship hall  
133 Church St, Bowmansville, Pa.  
Ticket Price: \$40 to play for 35 plus theme baskets

Doors Open at 11:00 am Bingo starts at 12:30 pm  
Limited Seating  
Food Available

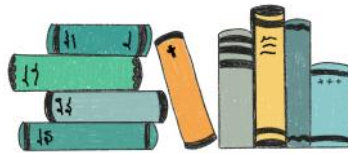
Call 717-445-6256 for more information



## Looking Ahead

April 2	Maundy Thursday Service
April 3	Good Friday Prayer Vigil
April 5	Easter/Communion
April 16	Fill Food Bank Orders
April 25	Basket Bingo
May 10	Mother's Day
May 14	Ascension Day
May 21	Fill Food Bank Orders
May 24	Pentecost Sunday/Communion Strengthen the Church Offering
May 25	Memorial Day

## Church Library; Book of the Month



This month's featured book is called "*The Power of Patience*" by M.J. Ryan.

In reading this book I have discovered ways to practice being more patient. Sometimes it's hard to be patient. Impatience can lead us to feeling frantic and stressed out. Finding more ways to slow the rush in our lives can lead to a healthier life.

The author of this book shares what she has learned about the gifts that the old fashioned quality of patience can bestow upon us. She gives us practical tools to help us respond patiently in any given moment.

I encourage you to read this book.

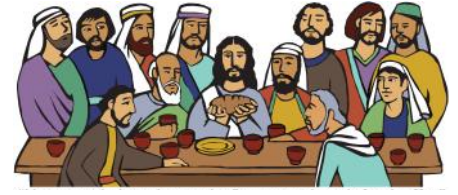
Jane Hoshour

## Consistory News

### Maundy Thursday Service

will be held on April 2nd. We will meet

in the fellowship hall at 5:30 to share a meal together with a short service and communion. If you would like to bring a covered dish please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board.



### A Prayer Vigil

will be held on Good Friday at the church between the hours of 9am to 5pm. Anyone can come in and pray in the church sanctuary during the time Jesus was on the cross.



Barry will be there all day providing hot dogs for a light lunch before leaving.

### Easter Sunday Service

will begin with our bell choir and continue with joyful music, meaningful scripture, and communion.

We hope you can attend to share with us in this celebration of the resurrection of Jesus!



### Church Directory

We are updating our church directory. If you have any

changes to your address or phone numbers or would like to update your picture, please send an email to [office@stpaulsuccchurch.org](mailto:office@stpaulsuccchurch.org) or see Dee Sprecher.



**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’s family, Brandon, Barb, Dianne’s family. Dury, Grace, Gracin Louis, Garrett’s family, Jeff & his Uncle, Kristy & Chris, Lori, Lovie, Miles, Sara, Shelleen’s Aunt & Uncle, Tom’s family, health concerns for everyone during this flu season, and our troops and everyone in the Middle East region.



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**  
 Zerbe Sisters  
 Nursing Center  
 2499 Zerbe Road  
 Room 10  
 Narvon, Pa. 17555

**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 help fill the orders at the food bank on Thursday, April 16th. 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.

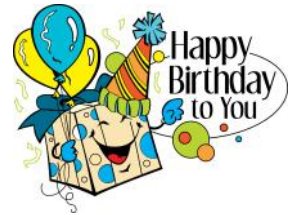
**Spaghetti Sauce**  
**Applesauce**  
**Ketchup**

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

Thank you for your continued support.

**Updated Needs**

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays

#### April

- 7 Katlyn Minier
- 14 Nancy Caffrey-Schafer  
Todd Cooper
- 18 Jeffrey Renninger
- 26 Tim Lutz

### Anniversaries



Nick & Nancy Schafer - 28 years on April 4



## Bible Quiz



According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?

- A. There was a flood on both days.
- B. There was an earthquake on both days.
- C. There was a huge fire on each day.
- D. There was complete darkness on both days.



Answer: B (See Matthew 27:51, Matthew 28:2)

## Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for  
February 2026

### Checking & MM Accounts

Beginning Balance	\$133,774.36
+ Receipts	8,882.83
- Disbursements	12,696.26
Ending Balance	\$129,960.93

**February's offering only total was \$6,504.00.**

## Financial Report



## 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.

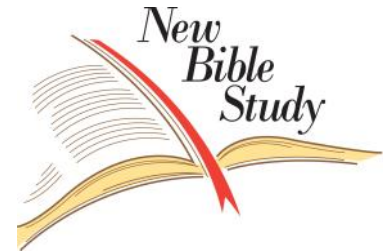
If you're interested in joining contact  
Gerri at 717-575-1720.

## Bible Study Update

The Ladies have started a  
new study titled,  
*Heaven, Finding Our*

*True Home.* In this eight-

session study book by LifeGuide, it provides a bibli-  
cal perspective on heaven--something richer and  
more exciting than we can imagine. If you would like  
to take a peek, please pick up a book in the church  
office. They ladies meet in the café area.



The men have also started a new series titled,  
*"Angels Standing Guard"*. This study explores what  
the Bible really says about angels, including their ser-  
vice to God and their ministry to people.  
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.

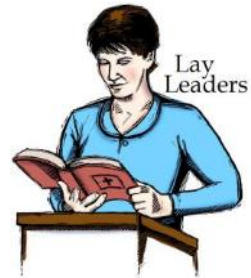
**Online Worship:** We are holding worship ser-  
vices in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

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

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCMUzTE3jCqaDyG2WIUzaX9w/live](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUzTE3jCqaDyG2WIUzaX9w/live)



# Monthly Volunteers



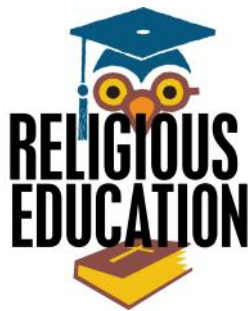
April 5 Cheryl Borja \*\*  
 April 12 Sara Renninger  
 April 19 Gerri Shober  
 April 26 Judy Enck

April 5 Charlie Storms  
 April 12 Tim Lutz  
 April 19 Grace Shober  
 April 26 Gerri Shober

May 3 Mary Renninger  
 May 10 Dee Sprecher  
 May 17 Cheryl Borja  
 May 24 Sara Renninger \*\*  
 May 31 Gerri Shober

May 3 Barry Gehman  
 May 10 Mary Renninger  
 May 17 Sharon Blechschmidt  
 May 24 Kieran Connelly  
 May 31 Lynda Cooper

\*\* Indicates communion



April 5 FSB—no class  
 April 12 Cheryl Borja  
 April 19 Children's Storytime –Grace  
 April 26 Gerri Shober

Nursery available as needed

May 3 FSB—no class  
 May 10 Cheryl Borja  
 May 17 Children's Storytime –Grace  
 May 24 Gerri Shober  
 May 31 Jane Hoshour

## Sponsors



April 5	open
April 12	open
April 19	open
April 26	open

## Christian Symbol

**PEACOCK** — The beautiful peacock is likely one of the lesser-known Christian symbols. Based on an ancient myth that its flesh doesn't decay after death, early Christians appropriated the bird as a symbol of immortality. The molting of its tail feathers each year to be replaced with supposedly more beautiful ones led to use of the peacock as a sign of resurrection and glorification.



Additionally, the eye-like pattern in the peacock's tail feathers made it a symbol of conscience and of God, who sees all. However, the peacock also represents arrogance as it struts to show off its plumage. During the Baroque period, the peacock was often part of artwork at the 10th Station of the Cross, depicting Jesus stripped of his clothing—atonement, according to some teachings, specifically for our sin of vanity.

Early Christians believed peacocks shriek when they catch sight of their feet, which they consider ugly. Christians took this as a reminder that we, too, should lament our spiritual imperfections that detract from the beauty of life lived in Christ.

## 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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Bowmansville, Pa. 17507  
Phone & Fax 717-445-6256  
office@stpaulsuccchurch.org  
www.stpaulsuccchurch.org

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dee@stpaulsuccchurch.org



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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Maundy Thursday Service 5:30	3 Good Friday Prayer Vigil	4
5 First Sunday Blessing 10:30 Easter Communion	6 Pancakes @ Paul's	7	8 Men's & Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm	9 Choir Practice 7pm	10	11
12 Worship 10:30	13	14	15	16 Fill Food Bank Orders	17	18
19 Worship 10:30	20	21	22	23	24	25 Basket Bingo
26 Worship 10:30	27 Book Club 6:30	28	29	30		