



# 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 5  
May 2026

## What's Inside?

Pancakes at Paul's

Memorial Day  
Tribute

Quilt Blessing

New Members

Alta's Ham &  
Bean Soup  
Luncheon



### *“What Is A Mother?”*

What is a mother? When you ponder that question, the answers are not just biological responses. No. The answers are abstract, emotional, and almost beyond description. And so, a good place to look for a more complete answer is the immeasurable wisdom of the bible.

The word “mother” appears almost 300 times in the bible, and 36 different women are specifically identified for their motherhood or mother-like character.....women like Eve (“the mother of all living”), Sarah (“the mother of nations”), and Bathsheba (the mother of “Mr wisest man that ever lived”).

But I think most importantly, the bible emphasizes the nature of good mothers:

- a teacher of wisdom (Prov. 1)
- a pillar of strength and sacrifice (Prov. 31) And perhaps the best reflection of them all, in Isaiah 66:13, God compares his own nature to the nature of a good mother: “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.”

So—what is a mother??

It transcends biology, reflects the nature of God, and is the living definition of agape love.

On May 10th, and every day, we celebrate the mothers and mother figures in our lives.

Thank you all.

Phil

*“No man is poor who has a Godly mother.”*

Abraham Lincoln



### 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”***

May 3rd

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  
May 4th***



*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

***Memorial Tribute***

The United Veterans Council will hold their annual pilgrimage to local cemeteries to pay tribute to our Veterans on **Monday, May 25th.**

Everyone is invited to Bowmansville Union Cemetery to help remember those who served and continue to serve our country. The pilgrimage is scheduled to begin at approximately 8:15 am at the cemetery with the New Holland Veterans Council and the New Holland Band.

We hope many will attend to pay tribute to our Veterans and their families.

The Bowmansville Union Cemetery is located at 160 Church St in Bowmansville.



## Looking Ahead

May 3	Quilt Blessing
May 4	Pancakes @ Paul's
May 10	New Members Mother's Day
May 14	Ascension Day
May 17	Ham & Bean Soup Luncheon
May 21	Fill Food Bank Orders
May 24	Pentecost Sunday/Communion Strengthen the Church Offering
May 25	Memorial Day
May 31	Trinity Sunday
June 1	Pancakes @ Paul's
June 21	Father's Day

### Church Library; Book of the Month



The featured book for May is titled *"The Seventeen Second Miracle"*.

Seventeen seconds can change a life forever. Rex Conner learned this one summer afternoon when his gaze was diverted for just 17 seconds and tragedy occurred. Forty years later the waves of that day ripple through the lives of many people, including his son Cole.

Cole Conner is a patient teacher, and he has shared his father's story with those in need. This fall, Cole has invited 3 struggling teenagers to learn about Rex Conner - and the Seventeen Second Miracle. The teens will hear how Rex remade his life - 17 seconds at a time - by performing small acts of kindness. What the students learn may transform your world, as it did theirs.

This is an amazing book. Thanks to Sue Kuzniar for donating it to St. Paul's library.

Jane Hoshour

## Consistory News



A **Quilt Blessing** will be held during worship on May 3rd. We encourage everyone to attend as we bless and pray over our next set of quilts to be sent out into the world.

We will be welcoming **new members**



during worship on Sunday, May 10th. If anyone is interested in joining please see Pastor Phil or Dee.

### Alta's Ham & Bean Soup

**Luncheon** will happen on Sunday May 17th in celebration of our new members. We will gather in the fellowship hall immediately following worship. Mark your calendars! More information to come as we get closer to the date.



**Communion** will be shared on Sunday, May 24th during worship. We invite anyone to join with us in this special meal.



### Strengthen the Church Offering is

a special UCC collection we will participate in on May 24th. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. If you would like to make a donation please use the envelopes provided in your mailboxes or pews.



**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.**

Arty, Becca, Brit, BJ, Carol, Cayden, Baby Gracin, Charlie, Chris's friend, Deb, Ed, Elsie's family, Emma, Greg, Glenda, Joel, Kim, Michelle & her family, Miles, Pastor Patty, PJ, Sara, Tammy, Ty, our Astronauts, Brandon's mom, the Benway family, the Bixler family, Shawn's family, the family in Wernersville from the devastating fire, the search & rescue team for the missing crew member, the conflict in the Middle East and all our service men and women.



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, May 21st. 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.

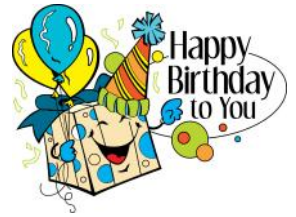
**Cereal**  
**Mandarin Oranges**  
**Toilet Paper**

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

Thank you for your continued support.



# Birthdays & Anniversaries



## Birthdays

### May

- 1 Paxton Fair
- 4 Harper Smith
- 11 Patricia Lutz
- 14 Curt Evans
- 16 Jane Hoshour
- 22 Gretchen Martin
- 31 Joyce Shoher



## Anniversaries

Charlie & Chris Storms – 37 years on May 6

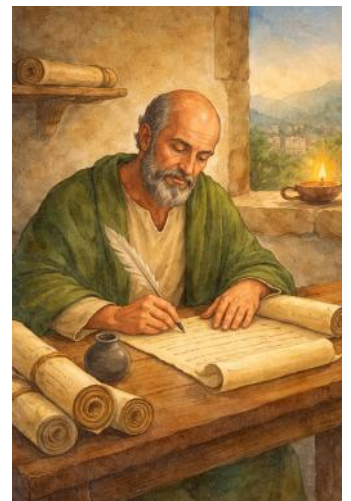


## Bible Quiz



Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila



## Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for  
March 2026

### Checking & MM Accounts

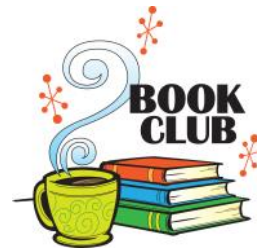
Beginning Balance	\$129,960.93
+ Receipts	12,841.13
- Disbursements	5,684.15
Ending Balance	\$137,117.91

**March's offering only total was \$9,795.66.**



## 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.

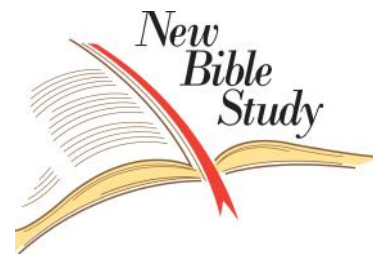
If you're interested in joining contact  
Gerri at 717-575-1720.

## 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.

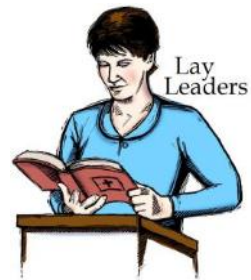
**Online Worship:** We are holding worship ser-  
vices in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

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



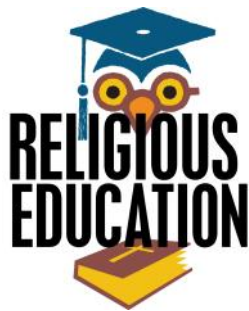
May 3	Mary Renninger
May 10	Dee Sprecher
May 17	Cheryl Borja
May 24	Sara Renninger **
May 31	Gerri Shober

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

June 7	Judy Enck
June 14	Mary Renninger
June 21	Dee Sprecher
June 28	Cheryl Borja

June 7	Charlie Storms
June 14	Tim Lutz
June 21	Grace Shober
June 28	Gerri Shober

\*\* Indicates communion



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

Nursery available as needed

June 7	FSB—no class
June 14	Cheryl Borja
June 21	Children's Storytime –Grace
June 28	Gerri Shober

## Sponsors

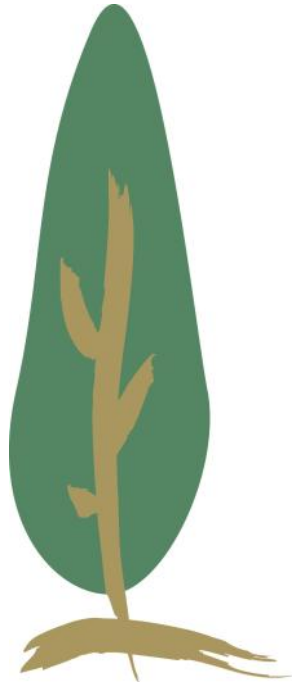


May 3	open
May 10	open
May 17	open
May 24	open
May 31	open

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## Christian Symbol

**CEDAR TREE** — A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted" (Psalm 104:16, NIV). David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.



## 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.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 First Sunday Blessing 10:30 Quilt Blessing	4 Pancakes @ Paul's	5	6	7 National Day of Prayer	8	9
10 Worship 10:30 Mother's Day	11	12	13 Men's & Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm	14 Ascension Day Choir Practice 7pm	15	16 Armed Forces Day
17 Worship 10:30 Alta's Ham & Bean soup Luncheon	18	19	20	21 Fill Food Bank Orders	22	23
24 Worship 10:30 Pentecost Strengthen the church offering	25 Memorial Day Cemetery Tribute Book Club 6:30	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship 10:30 Trinity Sunday						