



Celebrate St. Paul's !



140 years of service

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

Volume 22, Number 8
August 2026

What's Inside?

Pancakes at Paul's

Save Me a Pew

Book of the Month

Church Picnic

Project Updates



“SOLOMON’S PRAYER”

As I write this, young Tripp has drifted off for an afternoon nap (thank you, God), and I have had the chance to read this week’s newsletter from the UCC Keystone Conference. In it, my dear friend the Rev. Nora Foust wrote an excellent column focusing our attention on the profound choice made by King Solomon.

In 1 Kings 3 verse 5, God says to the young king...”Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

Imagine that! God gave Solomon an unlimited choice. And what did Solomon choose....HOW did he choose?? Did he ask for wealth, power, glory? No! Solomon replied with a prayer: “Give your servant a discerning heart, to distinguish between good and evil”.

And the result? God was so pleased with this good choice, that he blessed Solomon with wisdom more than anyone who had ever lived before.

And this story reminds us of the time, some 500 years prior, when God gave the same choice to Moses. In Exodus 33:17, God tells him “I will do whatever you ask!” And what did Moses ask for?... “Show me your glory”. And God blessed Moses, with goodness, mercy, and a brand new set of stone tablets.

Every month at our “First Sunday Blessing” we pray to God: “help us to make good choices”. Do we realize how important this prayer is? The choices are OURS to make. Do we choose wisely throughout the month ? And if/when we choose poorly, does God abandon us? Curse us?

No. In the same way, God never cursed or abandoned Adam and Eve, and he will never abandon us.

But....the bible (and life!) clearly shows us , if we make good choices, God will be pleased, and we will be blessed beyond our already abundant blessings. In the alternative, we should not be surprised that life will be more difficult than it needs to be.

Phil

Philippians 4:8

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”

August 2nd at Woodcrest Retreat
under the Cedar Lane Pavilion
Worship 11:00 am

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
August 3rd

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

Save Me a Pew

The world’s largest Protestant congregation is Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul. Since its founding in 1958, the church has grown at an extraordinary pace. By 1983, even seven Sunday services could not accommodate all who came to worship, leading to the creation of satellite congregations.

The main sanctuary, located across from National Assembly Building, seats about 26,000 people. Yet the membership is so large that attendees are assigned specific weeks of the month to attend services.



What a powerful witness in a country where only about 30 percent of the population identifies as Christian.

What would it take for your church to face a similar “problem”? And what part might you play in making room for more?

Looking Ahead

August 2	Church Picnic @ Woodcrest Retreat
September 7	Labor Day
September 17	Fill Food Bank Orders

Church Library

Book of the Month



The featured book for August is titled ***“Prayer, Does It Really Make A Difference”*** by Philip Yancey.

This book is the most thought-provoking book I have ever read on prayer. Some questions asked in the book are:

- Is God listening?
- Why should God care about me?
- Why do so many prayers go unanswered?
- Does prayer really bring physical healing?

Philip Yancy backs his answers with crystal clear insights into the importance God places on prayer and why we should value it.

If you are wondering about prayer and questioning how it fits in your life, I wholeheartedly suggest reading this book.

Jane Hoshour

Consistory News

Our Annual Church Picnic is approaching fast!

It will be held at Woodcrest Retreat, 225 Woodcrest Drive, Ephrata on Sunday, August 2nd.

We will start worship under the Cedar Lane Pavilion beginning at 11:00 am, followed by a picnic lunch. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided but you may bring a covered dish to share.

Afterwards we'll have some fun with a few guessing games and have access to the swimming pool and waterslide for the rest of the day.

If you plan on attending, please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board; we need to get a head count for pool and the burgers.

If you have any questions, please see Phil or Dee.
Hope to see you all there!

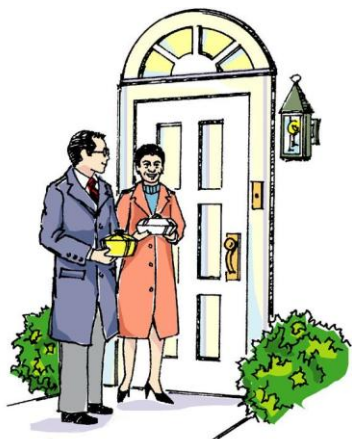
Maintenance Update: Take a look at the bandstand! The concrete has been cleaned and painted to match the church. Thank you to those who helped; it looks great.



We will keep everyone informed as we continue our projects around the church. If you have any questions, please see any one of our consistory members.

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 travel difficulties 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.



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 by the side door entrance and in the pews upstairs for your convenience. You can fill out the request and turn it into 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, Carol, Chris, Katlyn, Marian, Patrick, Philip, Randall & Ann, Fay's family, the Graham family, victims from the earthquakes, tornados, & fires, our first responders, peace in the Middle East, wisdom for our world and joy for our country as we celebrate 250 years.

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

The People's Pantry

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

Toilet Paper Assorted Soups

(no cream of mushroom or cream of chicken, we have plenty of that variety)



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

Thank you for your continued support.



Birthdays

August

- 3 Cindy Hoffer
- 13 Gina Harada
- 26 Brian Martin
Naomi Martin
- 28 Grace Shober
Nancy Bell
- 30 Tripp Shober

Anniversaries



Steve & Judy Enck - 22 years on August 14

Tim & Pat Lutz – 51 years on August 22



Bible Quiz

Jesus said that his followers are the "light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). It wouldn't do much good to hide a light under a bushel, he said. It should be put on a lamp-stand to give "light to all who are in darkness." Then Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see ..."

Choose the ending of Jesus' sentence:

- A. their way and not stumble.
- B. how good and faithful you are as my servants.
- C. your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
- D. in their darkness.



Answer: C (Matthew 5:16)

Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for
June 2026

Checking & MM Accounts

Beginning Balance	\$147,672.73
+ Receipts	9,513.14
- Disbursements	4,081.18
Ending Balance	\$153,104.69

June's offering only total was \$8,678.66.

Financial Report

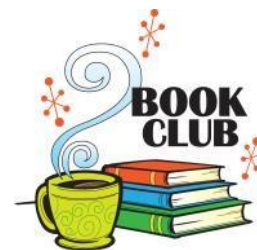


Literary Ladies Bookclub

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

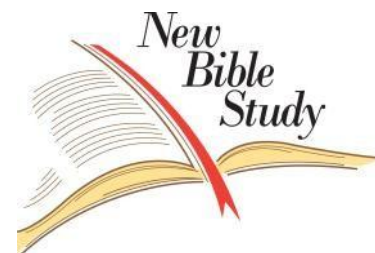
The Ladies have started a
new study titled,

***Heaven, Finding Our
True Home.***

In this eight-session study book by LifeGuide, it provides a biblical 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 service 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.



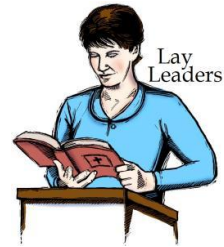
Online Worship: We are holding worship services in person and streaming LIVE on YouTube.

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



August 2	Picnic
August 9	Dee Sprecher
August 16	Cheryl Borja
August 23	Sara Renninger
August 30	Gerri Shober

August 2	Lynda Cooper
August 9	Charlie Storms
August 16	Tim Lutz
August 23	Lynda Cooper
August 30	Gerri Shober

September 6	Judy Enck
September 13	Mary Renninger
September 20	Dee Sprecher
September 27	Cheryl Borja

September 6	Barry Gehman
September 13	Mary Renninger
September 20	Sharon Blechschmidt
September 27	Kieran Connelly

** Indicates communion



August 2	FSB - No Class
August 9	Gerri Shober
August 16	Children's Storytime
August 23	Jane Hoshour
August 30	Cheryl Borja

September 6	FSB - No Class
September 13	Gerri Shober
September 20	Children's Storytime
September 27	Jane Hoshour



Nursery available as needed

Sponsors



August 2	open
August 9	open
August 16	open
August 23	open
August 30	open

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.

Christian Symbol

SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and

devotion, represents a

life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.



Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness. In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.

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.



AUGUST

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Picnic @ Woodcrest Retreat 11:00 am	3 Pancakes @ Paul's 6:00 – 9:00 am	4 Piano Lessons 8:30 am	5	6	7	8
9 Worship 10:30	10	11 Piano Lessons 8:30 am	12 Men's & Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm	13 Choir Practice 7pm	14	15
16 Worship 10:30	17	18 Piano Lessons 8:30 am	19	20	21	22
23 Worship 10:30	24	25 Piano Lessons 8:30 am	26	27	28	29
30 Worship 10:30	31 Book Club 6:30 pm					