



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 10
October 2026

What's Inside?

Pancakes at Paul's

Pastor Appreciation
Month

Washington DC
Bus Trip

Operation
Christmas Child



"TRICK OR TREAT"

Who do you suppose first came up with the idea for "trick or treating"? I wonder what guy first said to his wife "here's an idea, let's put scary masks on the kids and send them out begging to the neighbors"...?

Of course the history of that specific activity is a bit murky and has evolved over time, but imagine the audacity of that idea! And yet, according to History.com, Halloween has become the second biggest commercial holiday in America.

And I guess some people think it's a bad thing in some way, but many people, including many church groups, think it's a great thing! Why? Because it encourages neighbors to get out and walk and talk together. It promotes openness and sharing within communities. And, at least for that one evening, it tends to put the focus on the family, and especially the children.

"Trick or Treating"....an audacious idea that today we would almost certainly reject. But it shows that sometimes, if prudently managed, something new and maybe slightly audacious may be worth a try.

Have a great October and a wonderful Halloween!
Phil



"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear". 1 John 4:18

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"

October 4
Worship 10:30 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
October 5th

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

Pastor Appreciation Month

During Pastor Appreciation Month, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Phil for his faithful service, spiritual leadership, and loving care for our church family. Through prayers, encouragement, visits, and the sharing of God's Word, our pastor has been a blessing to our congregation and community. We thank God for the dedication, sacrifice, and servant's heart shown each day. May the Lord continue to strengthen, guide, and richly bless him and his family as he faithfully answers God's call.



"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."

– Jeremiah 3:15

Looking Ahead

October 4	Communion NIN Offering
October 15	Fill Food Bank Orders
October 24	DC Bus Trip
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 3	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 15	Congregational Meeting
November 22	Communion
November 26	Thanksgiving
November 29	1 st Sunday of Advent

Church Library Book of the Month



The featured book for

October is ***“Soul Survivor”*** (How My Faith Survived the Church) by Philip Yancey.

Yancey tells about how he survived spiritually despite early questions he had from his own church. He tells of his own struggle to reclaim belief interwoven with inspiring portraits of notable people from all walks of life and work. He tells of the lives and faith journeys of Dr. Paul Brand, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Leo Tolstoy, Dr. C. Everett Koop and 9 more people who modeled for him a life-enhancing rather than life-constricting faith.

I highly recommend this book because of the variety of individuals and journeys of faith that he writes about.

Jane Hoshour

Consistory News

Our gifts to **Neighbors In Need** support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, grants and the council for American Indian Ministry. This special UCC offering will take place on October 4th. If you would like to make a contribution, please use the special envelopes in your mailboxes and pews. Thank you.

We will be taking a bus trip to **Washington DC** on Saturday, October 24th. Cost is \$60. per



person. Bus will leave from the church at 7am and depart from Washington DC at 5:45 pm. This is all free time for you to go where you want. Please sign-up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board if interested in attending. Checks can be made payable to Barry Gehman and given to Barry or Dee Sprecher.

“Operation Christmas Child”

We will once again be packing shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse for the Christmas season. If you are interested in participating,



shoeboxes can be picked up in the café area. There are gift suggestions inside the box along with a tag to label your box. All boxes must be returned to the church office by November 15th.

Samaritan’s Purse sends gift-filled *“Operation Christmas Child”* shoeboxes to children in need around the world together with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you would like to read more about this wonderful mission go to

www.samaritanaspurse.org.

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.

Alda, Andy, Billy, Chase, Deb, Diane, Grace, Jared, Jeremy, Joan, Kim, Larry, Marion, Michael, Paxton, Steve, Ray & Cheryl, the Nepal area from the mudslides, the 25th anniversary of 911, the measles outbreak, and all people in recovery.

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

It will be our turn to fill the orders at the food bank in Terre Hill on Thursday, October 15th. 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.

**Unscented Laundry
Detergent
Canned Tuna
Pancake Mix (complete)**



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

Thank you for your continued support.



Birthdays

October

4	Steve Renninger
8	Kieran Connelly
10	Mary Renninger
12	Sara Renninger
	Mateo Shober
20	Fay Weinrich
29	Anna Fortuna

Anniversaries



Ross & Natalie Shober –
13 years on October 12
Brian & Gretchen Martin –
39 years on October 17



Bible Quiz

Psalm 103 (ESV) begins: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his _____." What should we "not forget"?

- A. goodness
- B. kindness
- C. gifts
- D. benefits



Answer: D (Psalm 103:2)

Treasurer's Report

The monthly report for
August 2026

Financial Report



Checking & MM Accounts

Beginning Balance	\$155,599.50
+ Receipts	8,278.21
- Disbursements	18,251.01
Ending Balance	\$145,626.70

August's offering only total was \$5,754.00.

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

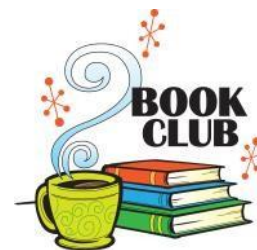
If you would like to watch our service live on YouTube please click on the link below.



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

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.

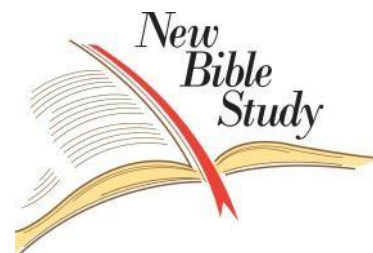
If you're interested in joining contact
Gerri at 717-575-1720.

Bible Study Update

The Ladies have started a
new study titled,

***Heaven, Finding Our
True Home.*** In this eight-

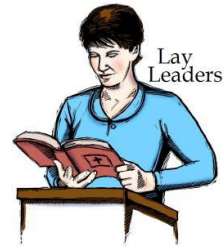
session study book by LifeGuide, it provides a biblical perspective on heaven--something richer and more exciting than we can imagine. If you would like to take a peek, please pick up a book in the church office. The ladies meet in the café area.



The men started a new study titled ***"The Founding Fathers and the Bible"***. 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.

Monthly Volunteers



October 4	Gerri Shober **
October 11	Sara Renninger
October 18	Judy Enck
October 25	Mary Renninger

October 4	Lynda Cooper
October 11	Charlie Storms
October 18	Tim Lutz
October 25	Sharon Blechschmidt

November 1	Dee Sprecher
November 8	Cheryl Borja
November 15	Sara Renninger
November 22	Judy Enck **
November 29	Gerri Shober

November 1	Gerri Shober
November 8	Barry Gehman
November 15	Mary Renninger
November 22	Sharon Blechschmidt
November 29	Kieran Connolly

** Indicates communion



October 4	FSB - No Class
October 11	Cheryl Borja
October 18	Children's Storytime
October 25	Gerri Shober

November 1	FSB - No Class
November 8	Jane Hoshour
November 15	Children's Storytime
November 22	Cheryl Borja
November 29	Gerri Shober



Nursery available as needed

Sponsors



October 4	open
October 11	open
October 18	open
October 25	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

LAMP — In Bible times, lamps were small but essential sources of light,



especially during the dark hours of night. Scripture often uses the image of a lamp to represent God's guidance, truth and wisdom. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path," reminding believers that God's Word directs each step of life. Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids also connects the lamp with wisdom and spiritual readiness (Matthew 25:1-13). In addition, the lamp is sometimes used to symbolize the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the gift of life itself. Because of these meanings, the lamp has become a lasting symbol of God's guidance, faithful living and the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

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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.



OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 FSB Worship 10:30 Communion NIN Offering	5 Pancakes @ Paul's 6:00 – 9:00 am	6 Piano Lessons 8:30 am	7	8	9	10
11 Worship 10:30	12 Columbus Day	13 Piano Lessons 8:30 am	14 Men's & Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm	15 Fill Food Bank Orders Choir Practice 7pm	16	17
18 Worship 10:30	19	20 Piano Lessons 8:30 am	21	22	23	24 DC Bus Trip
25 Worship 10:30	26 Book Club 6:30 pm	27 Piano Lessons 8:30 am	28	29	30	31 Halloween