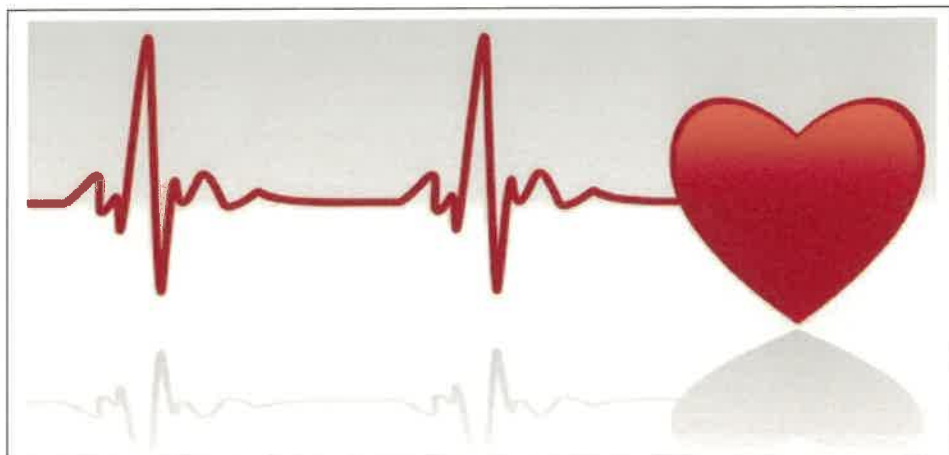


St. Paul's United Church of Christ
47 South Whiteoak Street
Kutztown, PA 19530
610-683-3393

Sunday School for all ages 9am
Sunday Worship 10:15 am

office@stpaulskutztown.org



The Pulse

March 2025
VOL 55 #03

Of ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, Kutztown, PA

Lent – the 40 days leading up to Easter begins in March. A tradition among many Christians is to use Lent as a time of fasting and contemplation. During Lent, consider this practical — and biblical — advice from Arthur Lichtenberger, a former presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church:

Fasting and feasting

- Fast from criticism, and feast on praise.
- Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy.
- Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace.
- Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment.
- Fast from jealousy, and feast on love.
- Fast from pride, and feast on humility.
- Fast from selfishness, and feast on service.
- Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

Our Mission

We, the family of St. Paul's UCC, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, are committed to carry His Good News. We celebrate God's presence by sharing God's unconditional love with fellowship, worship and service to others. We pray God's wisdom and compassion to lead us in our endeavors.

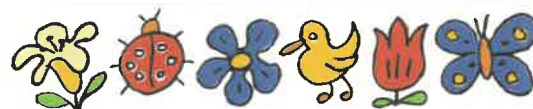
IMPORTANT DATES

- **March 2** Transfiguration
- **March 5** Ash Wednesday 7 PM
- **March 9** Daylight Savings Begins
- **March 9** Lenten Communion
and **ALL-CHURCH EVENT**
- **March 11, 18, 25** Lenten Book Study
- **March 12, 19, 26** Lenten Supper and Worship
- **March 15** Newsletter Deadline
- **March 30** One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

All Church Event – March 9th

You are Invited to a Delicious Lunch and Great Program

After Worship and Communion on March 9th, the Fellowship Committee will treat us to a delicious lunch of Barbeque, Salad and Soup. Following lunch, Pastor Deb and Transition Team will lead us in a discussion that will help the team answer, "Who are we Now?" Rewards for participation include dessert, lots of thanks, and knowing you've helped prepare the church for a new settled pastor.



FROM THE PASTOR:

Spring Notes!

As I write this, I'm reflecting on the fact that yesterday I needed to shovel snow off my driveway before work and today it is sunny outside with little to no snow in sight. Our world, at least the temperature, can change so quickly. We're in February – a decidedly winter month and at the same time planning ahead for spring, Lent, and Daylight savings time to come around again. (Do we really have to lose an hour of sleep just as the weather starts getting "nice?!")

At St. Paul's, I'm working hard to learn your treasured traditions at the same time we're all planning ahead for how we can let in the light of Christ, be swept up in the winds of the Holy Spirit and to listen for God. These things can seem at odds with each other, unless we remember that the whole reason we are called together is to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great

Commission of Christ Jesus. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment." (Matthew 22:37-38) and "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20a)

Faithfulness to God in Christ Jesus calls us together into this caring community. Faithfulness calls us to listen. Faithfulness calls us to share the light of Christ with a hurting world.

I encourage you to let God put a "spring" in your step, to step out of your comfort zone, to comfort the afflicted and maybe even afflict some of the comfortable so that we can share the light, the truth, the way of Christ Jesus.

Pastor Deb



St. Paul's UCC belongs to the Covenant Association of the United Church of Christ.

Association Website:

<https://covenantassociation.org>

United Church of Christ website:

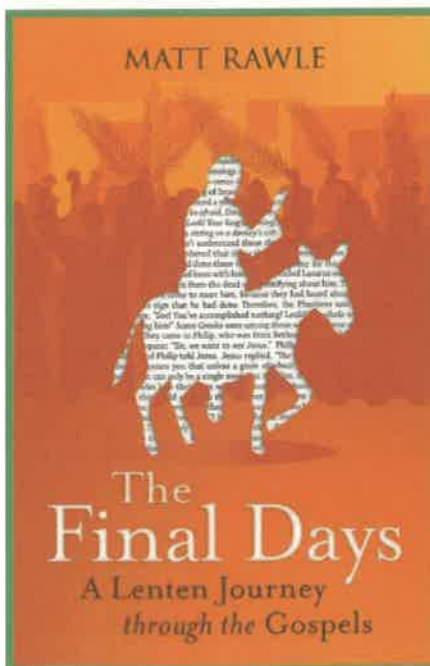
<https://www.ucc.org>

We are not alone in our ministries and mission.

Did you know that you can receive Daily Devotionals from the UCC Stillspeaking Writers' Group to your email inbox?

Go to:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>



Join us on Tuesdays March 11, 18, 25
And April 1, 8, and 15
at 10am for a

Lenten Journey through the Gospels.

All sessions held at St. Paul's UCC
Friends from Trinity Lutheran Church and
the community are invited to join.

This is a book and DVD study led by Pastor
Deb, Vicar Noggle and Pastor Ritter

A number of books have been purchased.
A \$15 donation will be gratefully accepted.

Please sign up outside the church office



March 8th into March 9th
Spring Forward an hour,
unless you want to walk into
church during the Postlude.

Transition Team Update



The transition team (formed last year) met with Pastor Deb and Consistory President Kathy Landis on Sunday, January 26th to end the first phase and discuss who will take part going forward.

In this next phase, the transition team will create events that help them gather information for the part of the Local Church Profile known as the "Discovery Document." Those parts answer the questions:

- Who We Are?
- Who is our Neighbor?
- Who is God calling us to become?

The transition team for this next phase is Brian Beck and Keith Wuchter (returning members), Mandy Boyer, Sue

Kunkel, Kathy Landis, and Erin Webb (new members) and assistance from Nancy O'Neil.

The transition team will turn over all the information gathered to a Pastoral Search Committee in the coming months. The search committee will then compile the Local Church Profile in its entirety and begin the search for the new settled pastor whom God is now preparing.

You are invited:

All-Church Event

Sunday, March 9th

After worship. Event includes lunch: Barbeque, Salad, Soup.

Dessert for everyone who stays to participate!



Please join us for **Lenten Wednesdays**
Simple Supper begins at 6pm.
Introduction and Worship begins about 7pm.

The Theme is **Our Lenten Journey**

March 12: Preparing for the Journey
(Luke 4:1-13)
March 19: Road Blocks (Luke 13:31-35)
March 26: Road Signs (Luke 13:1-9)
April 2: Getting Lost (Luke 15:1-32)
April 9: Soothing Sore Spots
(Luke 12:1-8)

"Thank you for your generous donation to our food pantry, Manna. Your gift has been a blessing to us so we can continue to bless the clients we serve. We are solely supported by generous donations like yours. We do not accept any government funding so we can also present the Gospel to our clients. Thank you again."

- Grace E. C. Church



Time to Bloom!

Rejoicing Spirits of Berks County – at St. Paul's UCC

Looking for something to do March 2nd? Why not join us for our Rejoicing Spirits worship service?! The Rejoicing Spirits worship service is held the first Sunday of every month at 3:00 at your home church! Pastor Deb is the lead pastor for the March service.

The service provides the opportunity to share God's word through a brief message, scripture, music, and prayer. After the service we gather for fellowship, snack and sometimes a craft. While this brief "shush-free" service is designed for those with developmental disabilities, EVERYONE is welcome!

On March 4, 2025, the Rejoicing Spirits core team and Rejoicing Spirits volunteers will be meeting with Pastor Twila Schock and Beth Sabella from the Mosaic National Supports team. Rejoicing Spirits is part of the Mosaic ministry. They will be visiting with us to hear our stories, our successes, our questions and to say "thank you" for participating in this awesome ministry. We are looking forward to their visit! - Erin Webb



YOUNG AT HEART

On January 15th, Young at Heart had a nice program held in Fellowship Hall. Our presenter was Kathleen Walck from Local Folk, a store here in Kutztown on Main Street. She talked of different crafts that can be made and how she likes showing people how to make them. We made bookmarks and sun catchers with dried flowers, stems, leaves, and various other items. Everything was decouped (a varnish type liquid that is brushed on and dries clear and hardens). She provided all the various materials. Everyone had a great time and as usual, we ended up with delicious snacks and beverages. Our presentation on February 19th focused on the History of Bethlehem Steel, Rusting Relic, presented by authors, John and Steven Landis. Check your emails and St. Paul's Facebook page for upcoming events. Join us for informative, fun presentations, refreshments and fellowship each third Wednesday of the month from 10:00 AM to Noon. - Ann Oswald

Editors Notes:

Our Apologies for any errors as we continue to update the format of "The Pulse of St. Paul's UCC or Kutztown."

The issue for February 2025 Should have been labelled Volume 55 Number 02.

If you have questions, comments or things we've missed, please let us know by calling or emailing the church office

Thank you to everyone who submitted information for the newsletter and for the unsung heroes who volunteer to edit, print, collate, email, and mail "The Pulse."



Doris Weiser	March 5
Brian Beck	March 6
Lynn Hilbert	March 6
Karen Werley	March 7
Hailey Bauscher	March 8
Lamar Bailey	March 10
Steven Geist	March 10
Bradley Balthaser	March 11
Allison Harris	March 12
Christine Diltz	March 15
Sandra Madeira	March 16
Rosaria Angstadt	March 18
Daryn Keim	March 19
Lucas Moyer	March 19
John Davies	March 21
Danette Seidel	March 22
Brodie Kutzler	March 24
Rob Rhodes	March 27
Jeremiah Schwalm	March 27
Charlotte Diehl	March 28
Fern Kline	March 29
Grant Fitzgerald	March 30
Judith Heffley	March 30
Michael Conrad	March 31

Mark your calendars: Vacation Bible School – July 20-24

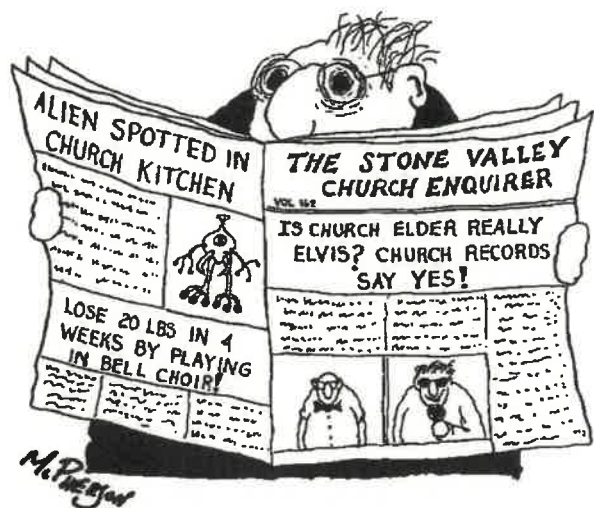
St. Paul's UCC/Trinity Lutheran Combined VBS Program - SCUBA - to be held July 20-24 (Sunday thru Thursday from 6:00-8:30 p.m. each night) at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kutztown.

Church Staff

Rev. Debra Timmins Interim Pastor
Barbara Merkel AdminAssistant
Judy Heffley Organist
Donna Sheaffer Bell Choir Director
Jan Lenich Sexton

Church Officers

Kathy Landis Consistory President
Steve Leinbach Consistory V.P.
Daryn Keim Consistory Secretary
Cheryl Zeigler... Treasurer
Margorie Weida Financial Secretary



ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER MORE EXCITING TO READ WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND.



MARCH 2025

Worship—10:15 AM
 Sunday School—9:00 AM Adult SS 8:45 AM
 Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8 AM—Noon; Pastor Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 9 AM— Noon
 (Due to church schedule, appointments suggested for Pastor)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 1 PM T. Grim Piano Recital (Sanctuary)	31					1 8:30 AM Manna at Grace Church 9AM-12:30 PM Button Club (Lounge) 9:30 AM Yoga
2 Pastor Sunday 3PM Rejoicing Spirits	3 6 PM Yoga	4 7 PM Bible Sunday	5 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service	6 6-9 PM Lions Club (FH)	7	8 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga
9 11:30 Transition Event	10 6 PM Yoga	11 10 AM Lenten Study 11:30 AM Worship Mtg. 7 PM Consistory	12 6-7 PM Lenten	13	14 7:30 PM Kutztown Folk Music Linda Russell	15 PULSE DEADLINE 9:30 AM Yoga
16 Easter Homebound Project	17 6 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Fellowship 7 PM Missions	18 10 AM Lenten Study 7 PM Bible Study	19 10AM-12 Noon Young at Heart 6-7 PM Lenten	20 2-9 PM H & H Quilt 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge)	21	22 9am-4 pm Private event 9:30 AM Yoga (Upstairs)_
23 Easter Homebound Project	24 6 PM Yoga 7 PM Property	25 9:30 Pulse Meeting 10 AM Lenten Study 7 PM Christian Ed	26 6-7 PM Lenten	27	28	29 9AM-10PM Crafting 9:30 AM Yoga