

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
47 S. Whiteoak Street
Kutztown, PA 19530

(610) 683-3393

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

office@stpaulskutztown.org



The Pulse

www.stpaulskutztown.org

April 2025
VOL 56 #04

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

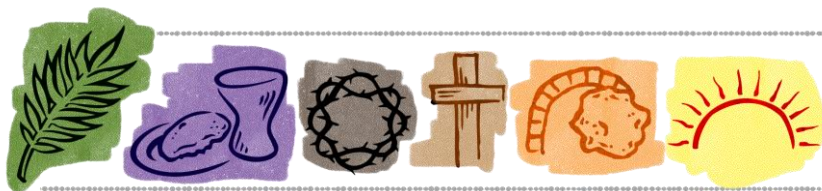
- **April 1, 8** Lenten Study.
- **April 2, 9** Lenten Supper and Worship
- **April 6** Baptism Sunday
- **April 15 Newsletter Deadline**
- **April 17** Maundy Thursday
Worship at 7pm.
- **April 18** Good Friday.
- **April 20** Easter.
- **April 27** Holy Humor Sunday

Holy Week and Easter Worship and Study At St. Paul's United Church of Christ

- 4/13 Palm / Passion Sunday Worship 10:15 am
- 4/15 Tuesday Lenten Study "The Final Days" 10:00 am
Bible Study (Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday) 7:00 pm
- 4/17 Maundy Thursday Worship and Communion 7:00 pm
- 4/20 Easter Sunday Worship and Communion 10:15 am

We are also invited to worship at Trinity Lutheran Church for these worship services:

- Good Friday, 4/18 at 7:00pm
- Easter Sunrise, 4/20 at 6:30am



Holy Week and Easter

FROM THE PASTOR:

As I write for this month, we're both in the midst of Lent and preparing for Easter Sunday (also called Resurrection Sunday). It's a sort of "both/and" situation. But then every Sunday during Lent is a little bit of "both/and." Every Sunday is a "Little Easter" where we celebrate the Resurrection, while we're still giving up or taking on the disciplines we've chosen to practice during the season of Lent. We're still working to grow closer to God in our prayers, our practices, our lives even as we recognize that God reaches out to us wherever we are in our lives.

For that matter, aren't we, as followers of our Triune God living a both/and life. We know the joy of the Resurrection as we have throughout our lives and at the same time, we live lives that stray from the path God has set for us. And on the other side of that equation; we know that we are so far from perfect that we are not worthy of the Amazing Grace that God has given us anyway.

As we live into the season of Spring here in the Northeast, we often live both/and, too. We get to experience some warm days, at the same time we know it is not yet time to put away the warm clothes that might be needed at least one more time.

And here at church, we're living in a both/and world; we have concerns about the future of the church as it has been known for the last many decades, at the same time we know that God is going to show us the way forward. We cannot stop change, just like we cannot the advent of spring. We can accept that is it coming. We can open our hearts and minds to God's plan for us.

May God bless us with the eyes to see God's plan and the courage to move forward into that plan.

Pastor Deb

Mark your calendar:

On **Sunday, May 18th**, Rev. Kevin McLemore, Associate Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference will be our guest.

Rev. McLemore will be our guest preacher and lead us in a Healthy Congregations Workshop following worship and a lunch.



HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOP

This worship and workshop will help us grow in spirit, understand each other better and better prepare us for the future of our church.



St. Paul's UCC belongs to the Covenant Association, Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Association Website:

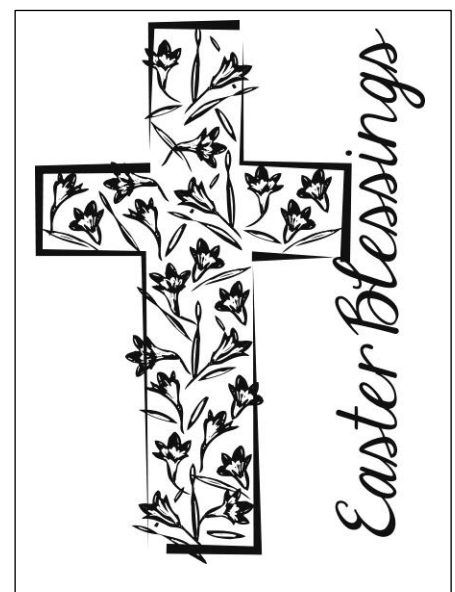
<https://covenantassociation.org>

PSEC Website:

<https://psec.org>

United Church of Christ website:

<https://www.ucc.org>





Transition Team Members:
Brian Beck, Erin Webb, Keith Wuchter, Mandy Boyer, and Sue Kunkel.

We all wish to thank all members who stayed after worship March 9th. We recorded many of the "Positive and True" values we hold here at St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown.

The team continues to meet to determine the scope of our work. We will also discuss ways to reach as much of the congregation as possible to pass on.

When our work is completed, a Pastoral Search Committee will be formed. The job of the Pastoral Search committee is to complete the Local Church Profile and use this tool to reach out to Pastoral Candidates.

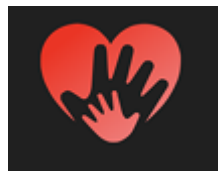
- Submitted by Pastor Deb

FEBRUARY 2025



\$19,304.04

\$18,379.46



YOUNG AT HEART

On February 19, Young at Heart celebrated a "once-great icon of America industry," Bethlehem Steel. Father and son, John and Steve Landis, were the presenters of the program, also the authors of the book, Bethlehem Steel Rusting Relic.

John Landis, a professor emeritus from Kutztown University in Communication Design, has been a tour guide for Historic Bethlehem Museums and Sites since 2019. Steve Landis, a graduate from KU, currently is now a head of sales for Continental Automotive with a hobby in photography. He had sanctioned access to take rare and elevated photos of Bethlehem Steel's derelict plant remains in 2006 after the plant had closed.

The slide presentation was factual and lively about the "Steel," the complicated process of making steel, and the positive influence the company had on the U. S. and international industry. It remarkably helped to win both world wars. Near the end of the program, the speakers enlightened the audience with stories of prominent "Steel" structures which remain as living monuments of the former industrial giant, such as the Golden Gate Bridge. It was a popular program with 23 people attending from the community and 18 from the congregation. The book will be available in the Firefly bookstore.

Submitted by Kathy Landis

Upcoming "Young at Heart" Events

April 16th – Peter and Jane Wolfe, naturalists and birders brings us slides and stories of their trip to Africa

May 21st – Weave it To Me, Susan Dirza - Spring Tulip Wall Pocket



Tell the truth

Reprove derogatory & hateful speech

Utilize every opportunity to uplift & encourage

Subscribe to honest & transparency in all of life

Tell the Truth

Lori Balthaser	April 1
Carlee Hilbert	April 1
Lori Reidenhour	April 1
Ashley Stofflet	April 1
Amelia Harris	April 4
Owen Seidel	April 5
Stephen Lobb	April 6
Katelyn Boyer	April 7
Everly Ferris	April 7
Keith Wuchter	April 9
Catherine Frederic	April 10
Christina Luckenbill	April 16
Anna Burrows	April 18
Patricia Fritz	April 19
Daniel Heffley	April 19
Boyd Lenich	April 20
Thomas Lenich	April 20
Jaclyn Diehl	April 22
Lamont Hilbert	April 24
Brett Rocha	April 28
Cristin Ferris	April 30
Karter Kutzler	April 30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Church Staff

Rev. Debra Timmins..... Interim Pastor
 Barbara MerkelAdminAssistant
 Judy HefflerOrganist
 Donna SheafferBell Choir Director
 Jan Lenich..... Sexton

Church Officers

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

What is this "Holy Humor?"

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter) was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis* – the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it.

In 1988 the Fellowship of Merry Christians began encouraging churches and prayer groups to resurrect Bright Sunday celebrations and call it "Holy Humor Sunday," with the theme: "Jesus is the LIFE of the party."

We will celebrate our Holy Humor Sunday on April 27th at our 10:15am worship service. A shorter than normal sermon (surprise!!) and invitation to wear a silly (or not so silly) hat during worship. The joke is on the devil; Jesus has arisen from the dead!



You are invited to join us
 for **Rejoicing Spirits services and fellowship times**
 the **first Sunday of every month at 3:00 pm.**

Next Service: April 6, 2025
Theme: Parade of the Palms Presiding Pastor: Chris Angstadt
We will offer a craft with our snack in Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome



Care Package Collection for Kutztown Fire Co.

The St. Paul's UCC-Kutztown Youth Sunday School has decided for its annual Mission Project to collect snack and drink items for the firefighters at the Kutztown Fire Company. We are seeking the Congregation's help to collect items including the following:

Individual Chip/Snack Bags
Granola Bars/Energy Bars
Cereal Bars
Tasty Cakes (or other wrapped baked goods)
Cracker Packs
Cookies (Individually Packaged)
Muffins (Individually Packaged)
Candy
Gum
Soda/Iced Tea/Lemonade - bottles or cans
(They currently have a large supply of individual water bottles)

NO NUT ITEMS PLEASE DUE TO SEVERE ALLERGY

Any other snack/drink items you think are appropriate

Items may be dropped off at St. Paul's UCC anytime until Saturday, May 3.

Please place items in the boxes located outside the sanctuary or outside the Youth Sunday School classroom. The Youth will deliver our collected items to the Firehouse in early May. The Youth thank you for your help with this!

Board of Christian Education

APRIL 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
		1 10 AM Lenten Study 7 PM Bible Study	2 6-7:30 PM Lenten	3 6-9 PM Private Event (FH)	4	5 8:30 AM Manna 9AM-12:30 PM Button Club (Lounge) 9: 30 AM Yoga 12 Noon—7 PM Pri- vate Event F/H & Kitchen
6 Pastor Sunday 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	7 6 PM Yoga	8 10 AM Lenten Study 11:30 AM Worship Mtg. 7 PM Consistory	9 6—7:30 PM Lenten	10	11 7:30 PM Kutztown Folk Music Berks Fiddle Champs (Sanctuary)	12 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga 3 PM—Private Event
13 PALM SUNDAY Folding of the Palms after worship	14 6 PM Yoga	15 PULSE DEADLINE 10 AM Lenten Study 7 PM Bible Study	16 10AM-12 Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilt	17 7 PM Maundy Thursday Service	18	19 9:30 AM Yoga 10AM-1PM Tech Training Lions Club (FH)
20 EASTER SUNDAY Easter Scavenger Hunt Easter Flowers in The Sanctuary	21 6 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Fellowship 7 PM Missions	22 7 PM Christian Ed	23	24 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge)	25	26 9AM-10PM Crafting 9:30 AM Yoga
27 Earth Day Project	28 6 PM Yoga 7 PM Property	29	30 7:00 PM Women's Guild Meeting			