

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

May 2025
VOL 56 #05

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



Welcome May

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 4** Pastor Sunday
Rejoicing Spirits
- May 11** Mother's Day Music Sunday
- May 15** Newsletter Deadline
- May 18** Last Day of Sunday School
Rev. Kevin McLemore
- May 21** Young at Heart - Spring Tulip
Wall Pocket
- May 25** Geraniums in the Sanctuary



Rev. Kevin McLemore

Presents

“Healthy Congregations”

The Rev. Kevin McLemore, Associate Conference Minister for the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, will preach and present a workshop on “Healthy Congregations” on Sunday, May 18, 2025 from 12-3. **Healthy Congregations Training** is a program designed to help faith communities become more emotionally and spiritually healthy, especially in the face of conflict or change. Rooted in **family systems theory**, particularly the work of **Edwin Friedman** and Lutheran pastor **Rev. Peter Steinke**, the training equips church leaders and members to understand the emotional dynamics within a congregation and to respond with clarity and calmness rather than reactivity. Pastor Kevin is a trained “Healthy Congregations” facilitator and believes this understanding of how congregations function can help with all sorts of dynamics in churches, including around conflict and creating healthier leadership. Additionally, there are also tools within the workshop that can help you be an agent of positive change in your own family.

Join us for lunch and this great workshop.

Menu: Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert, Beverage

FROM THE PASTOR:

As I write for our May newsletter, I am in the midst of Holy Week and we are all preparing for Easter Sunday. In our faith, we say that every Sunday is a little Easter. Sadly, by the time May rolls around we usually get so busy, busy, busy. Our calendars are filled with graduations (for everyone from kindergarten to college), proms, garden parties, weddings and planning for summer. We get so busy we often forget to celebrate our little Easters.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

All the celebrations of our life events can't overshadow the Love and Grace God has given us.

Perhaps as our personal calendars fill to the point of bursting, we are even more in need of attendance at church. For when one or two gather in the name of Christ Jesus, he is present with us. And Christ calls us into community.

When the world feels like it's moving faster and faster, that is the time to sit awhile, amid the prayers, silences and music that reminds us that the beauties of this earth come from God. We are merely spectators to God's splendor. When we move too fast, the flowers look like a blur of color, but when we slow down, we can see the amazing intricacies of colors and lines and we can smell the sweet, sweet scents that beckon the bees to come and taste. When we allow ourselves to slow down just a bit, we notice more of the expressions on peoples' faces, giving us a deeper insight into their thoughts and feelings. When we slow down a bit, we notice that even in the midst of challenges and even turmoil, there is beauty, there is love and there is grace.

Come and see, come and share what God has given to us. Come and just Be!

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Deb



Anyone interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown, there will be meeting on Sunday April 27th. New Members will be invited to join the church on Sunday, May 25th.

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>

What month of the year has 28 days?

What needs to be broken before you can use it?



All of Them
An egg



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

The team continues to meet to gather information for the Pastoral Search Team which will be formed in the coming months. The team decided to share the 3 wishes gathered on March 9th at our congregational workshop.

When we met as a congregation on March 9, 2025, we invited everyone in attendance to share three wishes for the church. We invited you to share positive, future oriented dreams and to dream BIG! These are not memories of the church in the past, but visions for the future.

As you read these, please **REMEMBER:** these are individual dreams that were shared on index cards. They are not collective dreams of those gathered or current plans for the future. They are an invitation for conversation.

To continue to improve, enhance community outreach (Rejoicing Spirits, Young at Heart, etc)

Networking with other churches

Increase membership, especially young families and young adults (15)

Encourage members to participate in church activities (4)

Greater use of facilities

Work together

Solvency

Longevity

A boiler that won't fail

While respecting the traditions, St. Paul's would benefit by encouraging innovation and evolution of the church through the future.

More youth so we could have a youth group and more children for Sunday School (6)

Be able to send groups on mission trips (2)

Continue to grow

Hire a choir director and form a choir again (3)

Continue to grow spiritually on life journey

How do we get to heaven?

Inexhaustible funding

Total member commitment to each other

Children involved in church (4)

No politics in churches

More modern hymns

Money – not only for the church but for more community outreach

LGBTB community outreach

More active members

Better use of finances

More volunteers

Pastors who really supports it's members such as visiting them

Less negative input

Financially sound

Caring pastor

Outreach for new membership

Open to ALL

Health, Peace, Strength, Faith

More luncheons

Faith

Understanding

Consistency

More Bible oriented

Go into the world with Peace

A pastor/teacher who preaches from the word of God

– no involvement in politics, either side

More musical variety

Continuity in pastoral leadership

Remember: These are wishes for the individuals who came to our March 9th workshop and are fodder for some good, respectful conversation.

List compiled by Manette Boyer

- Submitted by Pastor Deb



MARCH 2025

\$55,922.40



\$58,839.83



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Joan Bieber	May 1
Jill Fitzgerald	May 1
Linda Merkel	May 2
Jane Griim	May 4
Nancy Heffner	May 4
David Hoffman	May 4
Patricia Bubbenmoyer	May 5
Lindsay George	May 5
Kenneth Ziegler	May 6
Robert Grim	May 8
James Ludwick	May 9
Caroline Harris	May 10
Dallas Herber	May 13
Sue Kunkel	May 13
Donna Sheaffer	May 13
David Seaman	May 17
Debra Wehr	May 21
Kian Merkel	May 23
Betty Conrad	May 25
Bridget Oberheim	May 27
Devon Rhodes	May 28
Adalyn Galvis	May 30



May 4 – Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) and John 21:1-19
 May 11 - Acts 9:36-43 and Psalm 23
 May 18 - Revelation 21:1-6 and John 13:31-35
 May 25 - Acts 16:9-15 and Psalm 67

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
 Marjorie Weida..... Financial Secretary

Memorial Day May 26th

Memorial Day is an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May to honor and remember the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. It is a day of remembrance and mourning for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Here's a more detailed look:

History: Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, emerged after the [Civil War](#) when citizens would decorate the graves of fallen soldiers with flowers. In 1868, General John A. Logan called for a national day of remembrance on May 30th, and it later became a federal holiday in 1971.

Purpose: The primary purpose of Memorial Day is to remember and honor the service and sacrifice of those who died in military service, regardless of the war.

Observances: Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries, participating in parades, attending memorial services, and reflecting on the sacrifices made by those who died in service to the country.



REJOICING SPIRITS

Everyone loves a parade, right? On Sunday, April 6, 2025, at the Rejoicing Spirits worship service, Pastor Chris Angstadt led us on a parade of palms. Thirty people and Sparky, the service dog, paraded around the sanctuary waving our palms and shouting Hosanna, Hosanna! In addition to Pastor Chris' message and songs of joy we celebrated Hannah's birthday (who became known as HosHannah), joined together in fellowship and received an Easter craft and bracelet.

A quick thank you to Dave Swan and Marjorie Weida for filling in for Laraine Wuchter in the projection room and Cindy Swan and Sandy Fenstermacher for filling in for our usual set-up/tear down/snack volunteers.

Please join us May 4th when Pastor Susan tells us about "Fruits of the Spirit."

An additional thank you to Keith Wuchter, Louise DeVall, Pastor Susan Lishman, Charlene Fisher and Hannah DeVall for joining me at the Transition Expo. The Expo was an opportunity for us to share information about our Rejoicing Spirits worship service.

Erin Webb
Co-chair of Rejoicing Spirits



YOUNG AT HEART

On March 19th "Young at Heart" hosted Jon Bond, a local artist well-known in the Kempton and Albany region of Berk's County. He examined the Biblical influences driving the masterpieces created by Leonardo DaVinci, Michelangelo, and others produced during the Renaissance. He explained how these Masters experimented with mixing blends of pigments from as far back as the paints used by the Egyptians, to their own investigations using chicken eggs--both the whites and the yokes--to create fresh, vivid colorations.

Mr. Bond's paintings focus on the rural communities around Hawk Mountain, the Pinnacle, and the farming communities nestled at the base of the Blue Mountain. He went on to explain how he paints local pastoral scenes on specially selected wooden surfaces that serve as his canvases. He also reviewed how tricky applying egg pigments can be, usually requiring multilayered coverage as his final images come into focus.

We learned much about the Bible stories, the Masters and their craft, as well as how the seemingly ancient techniques are still used by the modern masters in our own time and region.

- Ann Oswald

Upcoming "Young at Heart" Events

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

June 18th – "Make a Charcuterie" Nutrition with Jennifer Youndt, Penn State Extension

July 16th – Therapy Dogs

All events run from 10:00 AM till noon. Join us for fun, fellowship and refreshments.

GREETINGS FROM CONSISTORY

It has been a busy, adventurous time at St. Paul's in the past two months. To keep you updated, here is a brief review from the March and April meetings of your Consistory.

First, Marge Weida and Laraine Wuchter filled the open elder positions for this year. Also, in March the "hot" topic was the heating system. Both faulty boilers were replaced, and a circulator pump was repaired. In light of the unexpected expense, the Consistory is carefully considering the financial needs of the congregation and the difference between St. Paul's expenses and income. At times the church is under budget concerning expenses and other times over budget which requires increased use of the trust funds. Going forward, monthly income versus expenses will be noted in the Pulse and Bulletin.

In other business the committees are keeping busy. In Sunday School, the children created drawings for the UCC art design, and three of the designs were submitted for a potential prize. Missions donated funds to the Kutztown Fire Company and Disaster Relief. The Women's Guild provided delicious meals for Lenten worship. Recently, Erin joined Personnel, which has been working with the Finance team to prepare for an audit and working with Technology to allow for more of the Treasurer's duties to be accomplished remotely. In the last Worship committee meeting, Carol Reinhard said that she would like to get the choir together for Easter. Instead, a group performed at the Palm Sunday service to honor Carol for her many years of being the choir director.

Other committee highlights: Rejoicing Spirits had thirty people attend their Parade of Palms which was a big hit. They will receive recognition in the national newsletter Mosaic for their role in helping a young man receive a service dog. Young at Heart has programs scheduled through July and has increased attendance especially from the community. Thanks to those who have donated refreshments. Brian Beck, who devoted thirteen years to the Property Committee, has resigned, and Dave Abel and Steve Leinbach will serve as Co-Chairs. The ice maker donated by Jim Ludwick is ready to be used. More volunteers would be helpful.

The Transition Team has met several times starting with the "Positive and True Inquiry Workshop." Pastor Deb has kept the Consistory updated and submitted a paper to the Consistory titled, "Guidelines for Fruitful Dialogue and Discussion." She encourages people to share good insights that can be heard and acted upon. She also would like the congregation to attend Rev. Kevin McLemore's visit on May 18 when he will preach and present a workshop.

The Consistory voted to open the doors for a few community groups: Lions Club, Police Dept Breakfast With a Cop, Kutztown Brandywine Youth Cheerleading Association, and Keystone Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service.

Bylaws are being updated and edited. Also, the Spiritual Council will meet on April 29 to discuss membership and quorum which is essential for the bylaws.

Many more good things could be said, but I may have already exceeded my allotted space!

- Submitted by Kathy Landis
Consistory President



RELAY FOR LIFE

Join St. Paul's UCC, "Angels of Hope" team in the fight against cancer. Come on out to Bowers Park on Saturday, May 17th from 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM. There will be music and fun events throughout the day. Don't miss out on celebrating "40 Years of Impact" If you need more information , please contact Denise Keim.

MAY 2025

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6-9PM Lions (FH)	2 Penny Party Set-Up All Day (Kitchen & FH)	3 5:30 AM—7:00 PM Penny Party (Kitchen & FH) 8:30 AM Manna 9AM-12:30PM Button Club (Lounge)
4 Pastor Sunday Transition Team Mtg. After worship 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	5 6 PM Yoga	6 10 AM Worship Mtg. 7 PM Bible Study	7 4-6:30 PM ASL Class (Lounge)	8	9 7:30 PM Kutztown Folk Music Ken Gehret & Henry Koretzky (Sanctuary)	10 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga 3-8PM Private Event
11 Mother’s Day Music Sunday	12 6 PM Yoga Last day to order Geraniums	13	14 4-6:30 PM ASL Class (Lounge) 7 PM Consistory Mtg.	15 PULSE DEADLINE 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge)	16	17 9:30 AM Yoga
18 Last Day of Sunday School Kevin Mademore “Healthy Congrega- tion”	19 6 PM Yoga 6:30 Fellowship 7 PM Missions	20 7 PM Bible Study	21 10AM-12 noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilt 4-6:30 PM ASL Class (Lounge)	22	23	24 9:30 AM Yoga
25 New Member Mtg. After Worship Geraniums in the Sanctuary	26 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 6 PM Yoga 7 PM Property	27	28 4-6:30 PM ASL Class (Lounge)	29	30	31 9AM-10PM Crafting 9:30 Yoga 9AM-5PM PSEC Spring Meeting

The B Team

Penny Party

Backpack Fundraiser

100% of the profits benefit our backpack project!

May 3rd

12noon - 4pm

Doors Open at 10:30am

Seating Limited to 135.

Tickets are \$10 a person.

St Paul's UCC

47 S Whiteoak St.

Kutztown, Pa 19530

An afternoon for a Family Fun Day!

Game, raffles, 50/50 and Food

Call us for more information and or to reserve your seat.

Christina ~ 610.217.6169 | Merry ~ 610.295.9932

The B Team

