

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

June VOL 56
#06

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 1 – Rejoicing Spirits Worship

June 7 – Blood Drive at St. Paul's

June 8 - Fellowship after worship

June 14 – Breakfast with a Cop at St. Paul's

June 15 PULSE DEADLINE

June 18 – Young at Heart-Nutrition w/Jennifer Youndt



Thank you to all who made our "Healthy Congregations" workshop a success. As always, the luncheon hosted by our fellowship committee was delicious and the room was decorated in an inviting manner.

We would have liked to have seen more people come out and stay for the workshop. But given that we are in such a busy time of year, it was great to have so much involvement.

Rev. Kevin McLemore introduced us to some of the concepts of Family Systems Theory and how it can be so very useful in helping congregations be less anxious and healthier overall.

We enjoyed the videos of "The Anxious Church" and "The Healthy Church" that are still very relevant (thought the haircuts and the price of a soda pictured in the background were dated!)

Rev. McLemore reminded us that it only takes a small percentage of the congregation to make a positive impact and to spread that positive impact throughout.

If you are interested in the topic and/or not able to attend the workshop, I recommend one of these books: Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach by Peter Steinke (pictured in our videos on Sunday) or Creating a Healthier Church by Ronald W. Richardson.

- submitted by Pastor Deb

FROM THE PASTOR:

Happy Birthday, Church!

Pentecost, the 49th day after Easter, is a celebration of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in believers. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit allowed the believers on that day (and us) to preach the gospel in the world. On Pentecost, we read Acts, Chapter 2. (Warning to those who volunteer to be worship leaders: there are lots of challenging names in that reading!) There are also references to the Old Testament prophet Joel. That day "those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added." (Acts 2:41) And so we celebrate the Holy Spirit and what is often referred to as the birth of the church.

Maybe we can't imagine 3000 being added to our little church (as happened on that the birthday of the church), but we can pray for the day when more are added and those here, who have been pondering ways of serving, come forward with faith and energy. Thanks be to God that we serve a triune God who fills us with the Holy Spirit and a passion for sharing the teachings of Christ Jesus.

Pastor Deb



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>



On May 25th St. Paul's welcomed into our congregation Ms. Barbara Krause and Dr. Dave Valuska.

Barb is a Math teacher in the Reading School District. She is married and has two sons. Barb likes to read and garden. Barb is excited to represent St. Paul's as a delegate at the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference meeting this coming Saturday. She is especially looking forward to local and wider church involvement when she retires.

Dave is a University Professor. He is retired from Kutztown University. Dave is a widower with two daughters. He likes to play pickleball and enjoys reading and travel. Dave has been an active member of the adult Sunday school for some time and a regular in worship.



Arnold Schwarzenegger has a long one. Michael J. Fox has a short one. Madonna does not use hers. Bill Clinton always uses his. The Pope never uses his. What is it?

Paul's height is six feet, he is an assistant at a butcher's shop, and wears size nine shoes. What does he weigh?

1. Surname
2. Meat



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

The team is currently
 reviewing the short profile,
 learning the UCC profile
 outline and researching
 community data.



Campbell Harris	June 2
Daryl Keim	June 2
Garrett Ordway	June 2
June Rung	June 2
Dexter George	June 3
Jacob Moyer	June 4
Steven Steltz, Sr.	June 5
Mandy Boyer	June 7
Fietta Schaeffer	June 16
Jack Moriarty	June 19
Connie Davis	June 20
Steven Leinbach	June 21
Joe Hartman	June 25
Louise Wessner	June 25
Arielle Levine	June 28



Brian Beck

As you may have heard recently, our brother in Christ, friend, and active volunteer Brian Beck stepped down as chair of our Property committee.

Thank you, Brian, for your 13 years of service to St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Kutztown.

Brian's semi-retirement (do we ever fully retire?!!) reminds me of the fact that so many volunteers step up to be leaders and helpers to make St. Paul's UCC a place of worship, sanctuary, and learning. We cannot write all the names of those who volunteer each month in "The Pulse," because there is not enough space, but we can note a volunteer periodically that we want to highlight.

If you would like to highlight a volunteer, please send the information to Pastor Deb and/or Barb in the church office. (If the name does not appear right away, it is because we are overflowing with thanks for many, many good servants in Christ!).



APRIL 2025

\$20,274.29



\$19,863.95



Many of you have mentioned financial facts and figures in the bulletin and “Pulse”. Some explanation of what they are might be helpful:

- 1) The finance committee draws up a draft income and spending plan (typically called the budget) each year, based on input from all committees. They submit this to consistory. If adjustments to the budget are needed, additional meetings are held. Once consistory approves the plan, is it submitted to the congregation (THAT’S YOU!). All members present vote on the plan/budget.
- 2) St. Paul’s UCC has passed a “deficit budget” for some years, meaning your spending plan assumes less income from the congregation than expenses. Typically, the shortfall is covered by a combination of income from trust funds and decreased spending. The approved budget for 2025 estimates envelope and plate giving at \$131,800, interest and dividends at \$25,000 and Transfers from the trust account at \$86,458.
- 3) Full disclosure: the biggest expense in any church is salaries, and the biggest salary is that of the pastor. As a transitional pastor with advanced degrees, training, and over 20 years of experience, my salary is a large expense. Both before and after I arrived, I made some concessions to decrease this expense. If you wish further detail about those concessions, please let me know.
- 4) When giving falls below expectations or expenses dramatically increase, it is important to remind the congregation of our financial needs. If giving continues to fall (as it did in many congregations during Covid, for example), it is important for the leadership to find ways to decrease expenses.
- 5) To give you a clear understanding of “where we are” in the budget, some figures are being provided:
 - a. “Envelope/Plate income last week” is still printed in the bulletin.
 - b. New to the bulletin: “Budget Assumes Envelope/Plate Weekly” figure. This is the amount estimated for the year for envelope and plate giving, divided by 52. This number is given for comparison.
 - c. If everyone gave weekly, we could compare a and b and see where we are falling behind/ahead of giving. Keep in mind, however, some people give monthly, some quarterly, some annually.
 - d. New to bulletin: “Total Income Needed Weekly to Meet Budget.” This is the total budget/spending plan for the year divided by 52. This figure includes income from all sources needed to fulfill your spending plan.
- 6) At a recent consistory meeting, they decided to publish (in “The Pulse”) the income/expenses for the previous month - once the treasurer’s report has been reviewed and approved by consistory. This means there is a bit of a delay but ensures that the figures you see have been reviewed.

Submitted by Pastor Deb

Church Staff

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

Church Officers

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

REJOICING SPIRITS

You are invited to join us for Rejoicing Spirits services and fellowship time the first Sunday of every month at 3:00 PM here at St. Paul’s UCC. Our next service is June 1, 2025. Our theme is “Filled With the Spirit.” Chris Angstadt is the presiding pastor.

All are welcome. Each service is 30-40 minutes, a no shush-ecumenical worship that enriches the lives of all people, especially, the differently abled, their caregivers, families, and friends.

Rejoicing Spirits includes music, playing instruments, joyous singing, opportunities to participate, brief, meaningful messages, and the chance to connect with others.

Join us for snacks and fellowship immediately following each service.

- Erin Webb,
 Co-Chair of Rejoicing Spirits

GRADUATE - Hailey Bauscher

Hailey is the daughter of Katie Moyer.

Hailey has been in the FFA (Future Farmers of America) for four years, holding offices of Reporter, Treasurer, and President. She has earned her Greenhand, Chapter, and Keystone degrees and is working towards her American degree after graduation.

Hailey has been doing an internship at the Mill in Germansville her entire senior year and plans to go full time after graduating. She also raises her own beef herd and shows her cattle at local fairs and jackpot shows.

At the recent awards banquet, Hailey received three awards:

- FFA Proficiency Award
- Kutztown Fair Association FFA Award
- Kempton Lyons Club award for on-farm work experience program.

Congratulations to Hailey Bauscher

Class of 2025



- Barbara Merkel



YOUNG AT HEART

On Wednesday, April 16, our Young at Heart group enjoyed an exciting journey to Africa through the eyes of Jane and Peter Wolfe, prominent birders in Berks County. Besides the United States, they have traveled to numerous countries in North, Central and South America in addition to Europe and Africa primarily to see and hear new birds and add to their life list.

During the slide show, we saw highly defined photos of beautiful birds, often unique to Africa. We followed the Wolfes' travels to South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe where we were exposed to geographical features such as Victoria Falls, jungles, desert, and ocean views. Besides all this, we saw herds of African elephants and other wild animals native to Africa.

In addition, we enjoyed a view of a large gathering of local folk dancing and drumming.

*For those of us who will probably choose **not** to take a 16-hour flight to Africa, it was an amazing and memorable, visual journey.*

Refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by the group consisting of ten people from the community and twelve from St. Paul's. Thank you to those generous people from the congregation and community who have supplied YAH with some food and paper supplies.

Come join us in our next adventures. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the wall across from the office or call the office at 610-683-3393. Here are some of our upcoming events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18th – Make a Healthy Charcuterie Board with Jennifer Youndt

July 16th – Therapy Dogs

August – TBD

September 17th – Protect yourself against SCAMS



Thankfully, in our country, there has historically been much overlap between national holidays and church observance. I say “thankfully” because our Constitution was written by men of honor and men of faith. There are some national observances that we bring into the church with gusto and some that we just acknowledge.

When I was growing up in Dedham, Mass., I loved Flag Day observances on June 14th. Historically there was and is a Flag Day parade in Dedham, while observances of July 4th and Memorial Day typically happen in neighboring towns. On Flag Day, we gathered to see all the bands, scouts, politicians, color guards, assorted groups, and veterans march. The parade ends at the high school football field where the retired flags collected throughout the year are properly and respectfully burned. In school, we always studied proper flag care and etiquette leading up to flag day. (This explains why I get so perturbed when I see flags improperly held or displayed).

Flag Day falls in the time of year that some clergy jokingly refer to as “America-tide.” This “season” is not on our church calendar, mainly because we are followers of Jesus and Jesus was decidedly not American. If we place America or our allegiance to America above our faith in our Triune God, we are committing the grievous sin of idolatry. If, on the other hand, we hold up America; clearly identifying where we act and have acted in ways faithful to God and where we have room to improve, we are both faithful and patriotic.

Sometimes we get these observances a bit confused and so I share the wisdom of the internet for us to remember that in 2025 these dates/were:

- Armed Forces Day/Week: Saturday, May 17th, during Armed Forces week.
- Memorial Day: Monday, May 26th, on this federal holiday we honor and mourn the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Flag Day: Saturday, June 14th, on this day we commemorate the adoption of the national flag on June 14, 1777.
- Independence Day: Friday, July 4th, this is the “Big One” when we celebrate the anniversary of the publication of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain in 1776. For us Christians, we especially proudly declare, “We have no king but Jesus!”
- Veterans Day: Tuesday, November 11th, this is the day when we honor all U.S. military veterans.

Happy Flag day and let us pray for America as we seek to live lives of faith and patriotism. - Pastor Deb



We said goodbye to these members of St. Paul’s UCC in the last several months. We offer prayers for their families and thank God for the time they were with us.



Carol Reinhard
April 26, 1937 – March 7, 2025



Shirley Hartman
September 6, 1930 – April 17, 2025



Steven Geist
March 10, 1961 – April 23, 2025



What is a "Penny Party"

What is a Penny Party? I think all of us here at St. Paul's have asked ourselves that question. I decided to find out and attend the fundraiser this year. What a fun time!!

Leaders of this group, Christina Stillo and Merry Goodreau attended Penny Parties with their families growing up since they are big in the Lehigh Valley. They decided this would be an excellent fundraiser for the boy scout troop, unfortunately not everyone agreed. But that did not deter these two. They saw the value and along with their two sons, now Eagle Scouts, they decided to put on the event themselves, since the Reading School District alone needs over five hundred backpacks per school year, along with the needs of other schools in Berks County.

Along with Christina and Merry's families, volunteers are helping in the kitchen and doing the running in the event area. It was wonderful seeing young people devote their day to this event, and it was obvious they were having fun.

The event began at 12 Noon and went till 4:00 PM with a break. Items are passed on a tray marked with a price anywhere from one cent, but no higher than one dollar. If you want the item, you place a ticket in the cup along with the cash. When the item reaches the end of the line the winner is drawn. Items are determined by whatever is donated or new. It could be boxed foods, tissues, candles, candy, cleaning supplies, books, and gift certificates donated by area businesses and restaurants. You can also participate in a basket raffle and 50/50 chance raffle. Yes, there was food, and all purchased and/or made by Christina, Merry and their families. These two ladies did not stop. They were in high gear for four hours of the event and then they had to clean up.

This year they raised \$4,160.00 and purchased five hundred fifty-two (552) backpacks. Delivery has been made to the Stillo residence. Christina will start calling schools this week.

I had a fun time, won prizes, and made new friends. I encourage you to donate and/or attend this event. It was quite an experience!



- Barbara Merkel



RELAY FOR LIFE

The event was held on May 17th at William DeLong Memorial Park in Bowers, PA. God blessed us with a beautiful day. Lots of teams support the Relay. Angels of Hope is a large part of this event.

Thank you to the many people who helped with the purple signs and the event. We had 573 signs this year. This is the major fund raiser .

Angels of Hope raised \$17,181.00. The grand total thus far is \$118,024.70.

Cancer can be a deadly disease; however, more knowledge and cures are being found every day.

Thank you for your support!

- Denise Keim



JUNE 2025

Worship—10:15 AM
 Sunday School—9:00 AM Adult SS 8:45 AM
 Office/Pastor Hours; Monday (Work from Home), Tuesday—Thursday 9 AM—1:00 PM
 (Due to church schedule, appointments suggested for Pastor)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	2 6PM Yoga 6-8 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 6-8 PM Mice	3 6-8 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 7 PM Bible Study	4 6:30 PM Spiritual Council Mtg.	5 6-9 PM Lions Club (FH)	6	7 8:30 AM Manna 9-12 Noon Blood Drive (F/H) 9:30 AM Yoga
8 Fellowship after Worship	9 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice	10 10 AM Worship Mtg. 7 PM Finance	11 7 PM Consistory	12	13	14 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga 6:30 AM -1PM Breakfast w/a cop (K. FH)
15 PULSE DEADLINE Father's Day	16 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice	17	18 10AM-Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilt- ers	19 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge)	20	21 9:30 PM Yoga
22	23 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice	24	25	26	27	28 9:30 PM Yoga 9AM-10PM Crafting
29	30 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice 7 PM Property Mtg.					