

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

July VOL 56
#07

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



Spend time with God this summer



My brothers and sisters, whenever you face various trials, consider it all joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. – James 1:2-3

It seems like every day there is a new “crisis” in the news. Some are truly anxiety-producing, and some turn out to be the equivalent of making a mountain out of a molehill. These constant dramas are a trial on the nerves.

We can look upon what upsets our plans or we can refocus and look at our lives as opportunities – opportunities to grow in faith, opportunities to hone our skills at problem solving, opportunities to create coalitions for good, opportunities to sharpen our minds while keeping our hearts open to God’s love, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the power we are given through the Holy Spirit.

There is joy in projects completed – whether they are completed in the way we had hoped and planned – or not. There is joy in knowing that God’s love endures forever. May we share that joy in all our days.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July 4 – Independence Day

July 6 – Rejoicing Spirits Worship

July 15 – PULSE DEADLINE

**July 16– Young at Heart
Therapy Dogs**

Welcome, New Members



Welcome Barb Krause and
Dave Valuska to the
congregation.

Church Staff

Rev. Debra Timmins Interim Pastor
Barbara Merkel Admin Assistant
Judy Heffley Organist
Donna Sheaffer Bell Choir Director
Vacant Sexton

Church Officers

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

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

Association Website:

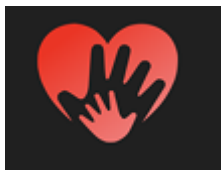
<https://covenantassociation.org>

Pennsylvania Southeast
Conference Website:

<https://psec.org>

United Church of Christ website:

<https://www.ucc.org>



YOUNG AT HEART

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 16th – Therapy Dogs

August 20th – Illustrator, Karin Crossley

September 17th – Protect yourself against SCAMS

October 15th – TBD

November 19th – Service for Willow Brook

December 17th – Shaynah Kinner Day Care

Join us for fellowship and refreshments the third Wednesday
of each month here at St. Paul's UCC.





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

The transition team is finishing up the work of gathering information which will be used to create a Local Church Profile for St. Paul's UCC. The last step is compiling your input on "Who God is Calling us to be."

A letter has been sent to consistory inviting them to create a Pastoral Search Team beginning in July.

SCUBA VBS - JULY 20-24

If you have not yet registered your child or grandchild for Scuba VBS being held at Trinity on July 20-24 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. each night, please contact Louise Moyer or the church office.



A big thank you to Emma O'Neil for creating the bulletin board for Scuba VBS!



Jan Lenich

We are happy to report that our sister and friend, Jan Lenich continues to do many things around St. Paul's UCC as a volunteer. Those things are too numerous to list here.

Jan has, however, retired as sexton of St. Paul's. Jan has been a member of staff for several years, doing the cleaning and setup at the same time she often jumped in to help anyone in need. While Jan is no longer paid to clean up after us, she has a vast wealth of knowledge about this beautiful, old building also known as "God's house." Please take a moment to thank Jan for her years of service. Please also pitch in where you can while the leadership seek a new sexton.

If you would like to highlight a volunteer or staff person, please send the information to 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!).



JUNE 2025

\$27,279.00



\$ 23,767.70

"CATCH THE SPIRIT, EMBRACE THE JOURNEY"

When you travel on an ocean or river cruise, take a long-awaited drive to the shore, or journey to a place you have never been before, how do you feel - excited, adventurous, anxious, hopeful, happy?

What are your thoughts about St. Paul's slogan: "Catch the Spirit, Embrace the Journey?" Sounds like an exciting or mysterious journey, doesn't it? You have seen the slogan in the church bulletin or on the banner draped across the railing of the balcony in the sanctuary. What does the slogan mean? You may recall that a few years ago, the congregation voted on it as the best suggestion for the church slogan. Then the banner was made and hung at Kutztown Day in the park, in Fellowship Hall, and in the sanctuary for various occasions.

Since then, have you ever pondered the meaning of the slogan? What is the "Spirit" and how do we "catch" it? What "journey" are we on, and how do we "embrace" it? What significance does it have for you, our church, and the community? It seems like a good Transition time for each of us to consider how the meaning of the slogan may help us move forward, feeling the winds of the Holy Spirit guiding us.

- Kathy Landis



Summer Challenge:

Before we ended the school year with our Sunday school youth, I challenged them to pray throughout the summer. We practiced "Praying in Color" – a fun and meaningful way to offer up our prayers to God. We also handed out Prayer Journal sheets. Why limit them to just the youth?

You are invited to use the following page as a model for your prayer journal. Additional copies are available by the church office.

"Pray without ceasing" – 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Submitted by Pastor Deb



Bring all your loose change and let us make a joyful noise in support of our VBS program on July 6th and July 13th.

The next sandwich sale is August 5th. All orders due to Louise by Monday, July 28th. What a delicious way to support our VBS Program.

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 July 6, 2025.

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

MY PRAYER JOURNAL

TODAYS DATE

MONTH: J F M A M J J A S O N D

DAY OF THE WEEK: S M T W T H F S

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

GOD, I ASK YOU FOR:



SOMETHING GOOD THAT
HAPPENED TODAY WAS:

I'M THANKFUL FOR:

I'M SORRY FOR:

SOMETHING NOT SO GREAT
HAPPENED TODAY,
AND I NEED PRAYERS:



A SPECIAL NOTE OR
PICTURE FOR GOD:

I AM PRAYING FOR:



We have a subscription to a nifty website called “ChurchArt.” This subscription lets us download some nice art and articles. The caption on this one fit so much more than one narrow message.

Seasons do change. Pastors do change. Some pastors stay for only a Sunday, some for a season, some for many years. God remains throughout. God remains when we are at our best and when we struggle to live up the bare minimum of what we should be to each other.

Our season of mutual ministry is ending. It has been lovely in many ways. I’ve forged relationships that I will sorely miss as I practice healthy pastoral boundaries. (See more on that below.) I’ve helped usher in some positive change. I’ve made mistakes, as all of us humans do. I’ve met some resistance and some negativity that I must now lay down at the feet of the cross. I hope and pray that all of you will do the same as we seek to honor God in all that we do.

Healthy Boundaries – both pastoral healthy boundaries and congregational healthy boundaries are put in place so that healing may occur where it is needed, separation may aid in the changing nature of our relationships and most importantly so that you may forge healthy relationships with your new pastor.

My part requires that I stay away from the congregation for a time. Usually that is for at least a year, and even then, I may only come back by invitation of the current pastor. I’m asked to “un-friend” on social media those of you whom I met during our time of mutual ministry. During my last Sunday, we will share a litany of departure as part of worship. In that litany, we are asked to make promises to honor each other’s ministries, letting go of what has been done or left undone. I take this promise seriously and ask that you do, too. This means laying to rest criticisms, remembering that resentments are like paying rent for someone to trash your happiness. I ask you not to fill in any gaps in your understanding of why I’m leaving the congregation after 9 months rather than several years. I invite you to use this transition as a time of prayer and asking God, “What shall I do with this?” This question tends to take our focus away from the past and onto God’s call for us going forward.

I pray that your next season of ministry is one of ample blessings and thanks for all of your experiences in the past.

Peace and Blessings, *Pastor Deb Timmins*



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

The Youth of St. Paul's decided that for this year's Mission Project they would collect snacks and drinks for the Kutztown Fire Company. They delivered their collected items in May and enjoyed a tour of the firehouse. Thank you to the congregation for supporting their efforts!

Kevin Kulp	July 2
Carly Hawkins	July 4
Daniel Hawkins	July 4
Scarlett Unger	July 5
Matthew Diehl	July 7
Thomas Luckenbill	July 8
Gary Fritz	July 10
Todd O'Neil	July 12
Carolyn Ordway	July 12
Bradley Schwalm	July 13
Jessica Rhodes	July 14
Marjorie Weida	July 15
Laraine Wuchter	July 18
Kelly Monroe	July 19
Tayson Merkel	July 19
Mary Steltz	July 21
Ryan Kulp	July 23
Janet Haas	July 23
John Keiser, Jr.	July 24
Daniel Follweiler	July 25
Jan Weller	July 28
Brenda Grider	July 28
Steven Steltz, Jr.	July 29
Nancy Thomas	July 29
Thomas Merkel, Jr.	July 30
Caleb Heffley	July 31
Gautham Heffley	July 31



JULY 2025

Worship—10:15 AM

Sunday School—9:00 AM Adult SS 8:45 AM

Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8AM—12 Noon

Pastor Hours: Monday (Work from Home), Tuesday—Thursday 8 AM—12:00 PM (6/30, 7/1, 7/2, 7/3)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6 PM VBS Hauling	2	3 5:30—9 PM K B Cougars 6-9 PM Lions Club (FH)	4 HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!!!	5 8:30 AM Manna 9:30 AM Yoga
6 JOYFUL NOISE FOR VBS 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	7 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice	8 10 AM Worship Mtg 5-9 PM KB Cougars	9 7 PM Consistory Mtg 5-9 PM KB Cougars	10 5-9 PM KB Cougars	11	12 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga
13 JOYFUL NOISE FOR VBS	14 6 PM Yoga 6-9 PM Mice	15 PULSE DEADLINE 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6:30 PM VBS Hauling to Trinity	16 10 AM—Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilters 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6 PM VBS Set-up at Trinity	17 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge) 6 PM VBS Set-up at Trinity	18	19 9:30 AM Yoga
20 6-8:30 PM VBS	21 6 PM Yoga (Upstairs) 6-8:30 PM VBS 6-8 PM Mice	22 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6-8:30 PM VBS	23 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6-8:30 PM VBS	24 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6-8:30 PM VBS	25	26 9AM—10 PM Crafting 9:30 AM Yoga
27	28 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice 7 PM Property	29 5-9 PM KB Cougars	30 5-9 PM Cougars 7 PM Women's Guild	31 5-9 PM KB Cougars		