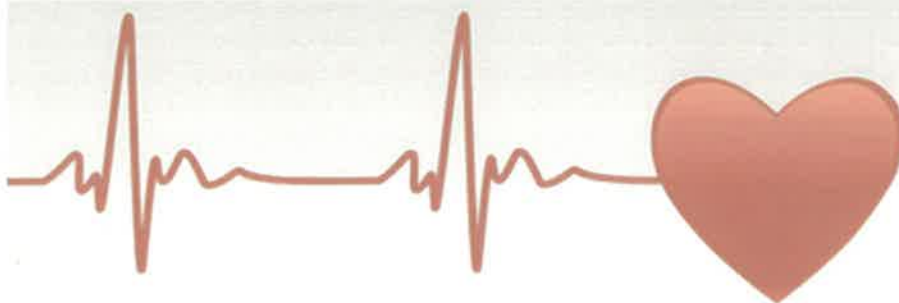


St. Paul's United Church of Christ
47 S. Whiteoak Street
Kutztown, PA 19530

(610) 683-3393

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

office@stpaulskutztown.org



The Pulse

www.stpaulskutztown.org

Aug VOL 56
#08

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

August 3 – Rejoicing Spirits Worship

August 15 – PULSE DEADLINE

August 20 – Young at Heart

All Month – Pray, Rest, Re-energize



Why Christian community is key.

Jesus' followers are not meant to pursue faith by themselves. In fact, that is impossible! *A family* and *the body* signify plural members. It is among brothers and sisters in Christ that we:

- experience our Savior's presence, living and incarnate;
- unite in worship, confess our sins, hear the gospel, and receive Communion;
- accept church discipline through the gentle guidance of others;
- learn — through other people's examples and experiences — what it means to live a life of discipleship;
- and lovingly serve together as Jesus' hands and feet.



Thank you, Cheryl Ziegler for your years of service.

Cheryl became the treasurer of St. Paul's UCC in the year 2000. Many years have passed, several pastors have come and gone, software updates have happened, and Cheryl has been there throughout. Cheryl's work was done largely behind the scenes. She often came in on Saturday morning to use the church computer when it was quiet in the office and no one else needed the office machinery. Cheryl's work helped the church administration keep going – working on the budget and paying all the church bills for salaries, vendors and mission giving to our covenant partners.

When you see Cheryl, please pass on your thanks for all her hard work. Blessings to you good and faithful servant.



JULY 2025

\$17,738.20



\$24,244.18

Church Staff

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>

The transition team of Brian Beck, Erin Webb, Keith Wuchter, Mandy Boyer and Sue Kunkel finished their tasks at the end of June: Research that will be integrated into the Local Church Long Profile by the Search Committee. Thank you, Good and Faithful servants on the Transition Team.

Thank you to all who participated in workshops and the special worship that included hearing from the congregation on how to move forward in Faith as a congregation.





Hello St. Paul's:

Checked out my calendar the other day and realized how fast summer is ending. That means, St. Paul's will be starting up again in September. Rally Day is September 7th along with Teacher Dedication. We will be guests of Bruce and Louise Wessner at their grove on September 21st for our annual outdoor worship. November is a busy month also with Dedication Sunday, All Saints Day, Youth Worship Service, the Congregational Meeting, and we will decorate the Sanctuary for the Advent Season.

Now let us talk about the Bazaar! Yes, I will be busy supporting the "Mice Ladies" cut, sew, and create. The crafters will be meeting upstairs on Tuesday mornings working on making beautiful items to sell. Cookies will be mixed and baked, food will be prepared to sell. This is a lot of work!

We appreciate all those who have helped in the past and we hope will still help along with fresh faces.

Look in future editions and your Sunday bulletin for help requests and see where you might offer your skills. If you have questions of what might be involved, ask any member of Women's Guild.

Thank you, St. Paul's for listening. I got to go; I see a snack with my name on it.

- Oliver



YOUNG AT HEART

On Wednesday, June 18, Jennifer Youndt from Penn State Extension, introduced the group to tips on nutrition and how to create a *healthy* charcuterie board. Fourteen people attended and were excited about how to select foods that were healthy and practical to offer in the charcuterie. It was amazing how knowledgeable and energetic Jennifer is and how organized her presentation and preparation were. Her daughter assisted by handing out the multitude of food items to each person.

First, participants were divided into groups of three and prepared different dips such as white bean, vegetable, avocado Greek yogurt ranch, and orange zest whipped ricotta to enhance the flavors of the myriads of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, cheeses, small cookies, and crackers. Then everyone created a rose from salami slices--very easy. The group had fun interacting with each other.

If anyone would like a dip recipe or to learn how to create the rose, the YAH team has those instructions, so feel free to ask any of the members. Some people could not wait to eat (including chocolates), and others took their stash home in paper bags. Well worth it! Here is a list of the upcoming YAH events. Come and bring a friend!

- Kathy Landis



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20th – Illustrator, Karin Crossley
 September 17th – Protect yourself against SCAMS
 October 15th – Craig Koller – "Stories from the Quilt Barn"
 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.



Help Needed!

In the church, we often ask, "Who is interested in...?"

To be honest, I do not think many people are interested in some of the things that need to be done:

Does anyone love, for example, to clean a toilet, sit in meetings, or try to puzzle out how to move forward?

In the church, we have tasks that we must do (that are often less than fun), but that help us do the important work of Mission and Ministry. **If you are not so much interested, but "Willing and Able," please come forward to help.**

Areas particularly in need of helpers at this time:

Property

Finance

If you can help, please contact Consistory President, Kathy Landis, or Barb in the church office.

SCRIPTURES

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| August 3 - | Luke 12:13-21 |
| August 10 - | Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 |
| | Luke 12:32-40 |
| August 17 - | Psalms 80:1-2, 8-19 |
| | Luke 12:49-56 |
| August 24 - | Hebrews 12:18-29 |
| | Luke 13:10-17 |
| August 31 - | Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 |
| | Luke 14:1, 7-14 |



As directed by General Synod, a *Manual on Local Church*, akin to the Manual on Ministry, has been created, for use by all settings of the Church to fully live into our covenantal responsibilities and privileges under the Constitution of the United Church of Christ.

That is all nice language to say: what is our responsibility as a church? Scripture says,

"And let people learn to devote themselves to good works in order to meet urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive." – Titus 3:14

A draft of this document was available online through 2024 for comment and now the finished product is complete. A copy has been ordered and should be available shortly for here at the church.



Relying on the grace of God, we Covenant with God to...



The B Team

Penny Party

Backpack Fundraiser

100% of the profits benefit our backpack project!

St. Paul's provides the space for this organization to hold their event, which was held this year on May 3, 2025, from 12 noon till 4:00 PM. I can attest; it is a busy event, full of hardworking individuals of all ages, making a difference in a student's life. Christina Stillo, co-coordinator of the event, has provided the results:

Five hundred fifty-two (552) backpacks are all packed and ready to be delivered next week to the following schools:

Kutztown Elementary & Middle School
Greenwich Elementary School
Oley Elementary
Brandywine Elementary
Fleetwood Elementary
Schuylkill Elementary
Boyertown
Muhlenberg Elementary
Reading School District
Upper Perkiomen
United Way

Items are always needed to bid on and they happily accept donations. If you would like to donate anything, keep your eye out for a donation box as the event gets closer or let the office know.

- Barbara Merkel

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Colin Heffley | August 1 |
| Ronald Newhard | August 1 |
| Jarad Luckenbill | August 2 |
| Judith Magee | August 2 |
| Barbara Merkel | August 4 |
| Elaine Musser | August 4 |
| Brian Unger | August 4 |
| Abbie Kunkel | August 5 |
| Erin Webb | August 5 |
| Brandi Long | August 6 |
| Amy Rakowiecki | August 9 |
| Lori Lobb | August 11 |
| Dave Abel | August 12 |
| David Swan | August 12 |
| Karen Rhode | August 13 |
| LeAnn Silberman | August 15 |
| John Kutz | August 17 |
| LaRoy Haas | August 18 |
| Aaron Snyder | August 21 |
| Nicole Weaknecht | August 24 |
| Taynara Rocha | August 25 |
| Tyler Schmoyer | August 27 |
| Ray Oswald | August 31 |



Shirley M. Leinbach

November 14, 1932 - July 2, 2025

We said goodbye to a member of St. Paul's UCC on July 2nd, 2025. We offer prayers for the family and thank God for the time Shirley was with us.



Greetings from Consistory

My purpose in writing this column is to keep everyone up to date on some important happenings at St. Paul's. If you want to know about something I have not remembered to tell you, please read the minutes from the Consistory meetings posted on the bulletin board next to the office. Also, if you have any suggestions or questions, feel free to speak with Steve Leinbach, Daryn Keim, or myself.

As in the past, our church activities going forward will require a team effort on the part of all members. On June 15, the Consistory voted 7 to 2 in favor of hiring a three-quarter time Interim Minister. In addition, the poll taken in the congregation indicated that the majority favored a three-quarter Interim Minister. Following that, the Transition Interview Team interviewed a candidate for the position and decided unanimously to make an offer. Currently, the Consistory and Interim Interview Team are working closely with PA Southeast Conference guidelines to complete a scope of work for a three-quarter time Interim Minister based upon the wants and needs of the congregation reflected in the Church Short Profile. Since there will only be an average of 30-35 hours per week for three-quarter time as opposed to full-time at about 40-50 hours, the number of responsibilities must be altered to be appropriate, taking into account priorities. It is important for the congregation to understand what those pastoral responsibilities are, so they will be shared once they are determined.

After the scope of work is developed, the next step will be to discuss with the potential Interim the work duties, salary, and benefits. If the candidate approves, the Transition Team then will recommend the candidate to the Consistory for their approval. Following that, the draft Call Agreement will be written and forwarded to the conference for review. After it is approved, a Consistory officer and one Transition team member will meet with the Interim candidate to review the agreement to determine if both parties find it satisfactory. If so, the final Call Agreement will then be completed and signed with a start date established.

The current candidate is in Canada from July 23 to August 15 so that may delay the process. However, the Consistory will keep the congregation informed as to the progress.

On another positive note, a group of about twenty elders met with Pastor Deb to discuss church membership. The purpose was to determine how many active members we have. Two groups of elders reviewed the list of members and determined how many may or may not be active. Letters were sent out to those in question asking if they wanted to continue to be active or to be considered a "Friend of St. Paul's." We do not have all the results in yet. However, the elders agreed on the definition of an active member and that was approved by Consistory and added to St. Paul's by-laws.

Many blessings to all who have volunteered their time and talents for the critical decisions that are necessary for the future growth of our church. And thanks to all those in the congregation who help in many ways to show their support.

Submitted by Kathy Landis

REJOICING SPIRITS of Eastern Berks County

Our July service was a bit different. Pastor James Schlegel was scheduled to be the lead pastor. Unfortunately, Pastor Jim had an accident and broke several toes! No weight bearing! Fortunately, Pastor Jim had everything prepared so Erin Webb could step in. A skit was performed to explain the day's message. Pastor Jim even had the special message cards made by Norma, a member of his church, Shepherd of the Hills, in Whitehall. Thank you, Jim, and Norma, and to Carl for delivering the cards!

In addition, we introduced the new Rejoicing Spirits banners! When Rejoicing Spirits first started two and half years ago it was decided we needed banners for the service. Pastor Kim Adamson, then Pastor at St. Paul's, purchased material to have new banners made by a friend. At the July service we displayed them for the very first time. What a beautiful addition!

Plans are being made for our three-year anniversary in October. Look for more information to come!

Blessings,
Erin Webb, Co-chair



August 3rd is Kutztown Day! It is also our August Rejoicing Spirits worship service!

Kutztown Day has music.

So does Rejoicing Spirits!

Kutztown Day has family and friends.

So does Rejoicing Spirits!

Kutztown Day has lots of treats.

So does Rejoicing Spirits!

Kutztown Day has fireworks! 🎆

Oh no, Rejoicing Spirits does not 😞.

But we have prayer and crafts.

and scripture and a message!

"Share Your Wealth" is the August theme.

Take an hour out of your day, Sunday, August 3rd,
and join us at St. Paul's UCC, Kutztown, at 3:00
PM. Hope to see you!

- Erin Webb,
Co-Chair of Rejoicing Spirits

AUGUST 2025

Worship—10:15 AM

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

Office Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8:00 AM—12 Noon



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|--|---|----------------------|---|
| 31 | | | | | 1 | 2 8:30 AM Manna 9:30 AM Yoga |
| 3 Fellowship after Worship 3 PM Rejoicing Spir- its | 4 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice | 5 5-9 PM KB Cougars 7 PM Bible Study | 6 5-9 PM KB Cougars | 7 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6-9 PM Lions Club (FH) | 8 | 9 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga |
| 10 | 11 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice shop | 12 4 PM Mission at Saucony Meadows 5-9 PM KB Cougars 7 PM Finance Mtg. | 13 5-9 PM KB Cougars 7 PM Consistory | 14 5-9 PM KB Cougars | 15 PULSE DEADLINE | 16 9:30 AM Yoga |
| 17 | 18 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice 6:30 PM Fellowship 7 PM Missions | 19 5-9 PM KB Cougars 7 PM Bible Study | 20 10 AM—12 Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilt- ers 5-9 PM KB Cougars | 21 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge) | 22 | 23 9:30 AM Yoga |
| 24 | 25 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice 7 PM Property Mtg. | 26 5-9 PM KB Cougars 7 PM Christian Ed | 27 5-9 PM KB Cougars | 28 5-9 PM KB Cougars | 29 | 30 9AM-10PM Crafting 9:30 AM Yoga |