

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

SEPT VOL 56 #09

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

Bountiful September Blessings! I am forever thankful.

Back-to-School Safety for Drivers

When school starts, our roads get busier. There are more kids walking, biking, and waiting for buses. Every driver plays an important part in making sure they get to school safely. By slowing down, staying alert, and knowing the rules, you can help protect children in your community.



Driving Near School Buses

- Flashing yellow lights on a bus mean it is about to stop. Slow down and get ready to stop.
- Flashing red lights and a stop arm mean children are getting on or off. Stop at least 10 feet away and do not move until the lights stop flashing and the arm goes in.
- Never pass a stopped school bus.

Driving in School Zones

- Follow the posted speed limits.
- Watch for crossing guards and children in crosswalks.
- Put away distractions like your phone so you can focus on the road.
- Be especially careful near neighborhoods, parking lots, and bus stops.

When drivers, parents, and kids work together, we can make every school day a safe one.



Pennsylvania

[Emergency Management Agency](http://www.pema.pa.gov)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 1st – Labor Day

September 2nd – Rev. Dr. James Latimer
first day at St. Paul's as Interim Pastor

September 7th – Rally Day
Teacher Dedication Day
Grandparent's Day
Rejoicing Spirits

September 15th – PULSE DEADLINE

September 21st – Outdoor Worship at
Wessner's Grove

Anger is Dangerous

Anger is a powerful emotion, isn't it? It can come rushing in without warning when you feel wronged, misunderstood, or hurt. While it is natural to experience anger, the way you respond to it determines whether it becomes destructive or an opportunity for growth.

The Bible does not say we should not feel anger. Even Jesus expressed righteous anger when He overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the temple. But Scripture is clear about how unchecked anger can become dangerous. When we allow anger to fester, it opens the door to sin. Harsh words, broken relationships, and poor choices often follow in the wake of uncontrolled anger, leaving pain in their path.

Ephesians 4 reminds us of two key truths. First, anger is not inherently sinful, but it must not lead us into sin. Second, we should not allow anger to linger. When anger is left unresolved, it gives "the devil a foothold," allowing bitterness and resentment to grow in our hearts.

How do we manage anger in a way that honors God? Start by taking your emotions to Him in prayer. Be honest about your frustrations and ask Him for wisdom and a calm heart. Practice self-control, pausing before speaking, or acting. Proverbs 15 tell us that "a gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." Choose responses that reflect grace, not retaliation.

Most importantly, seek reconciliation. Whether it is a heartfelt apology or forgiveness extended to someone else, aim to resolve your anger before the end of the day. God calls us to be peacemakers, healing instead of harming.



Anger may try to control you, but you are not alone in the battle. Trust in the Holy Spirit to guide your words and actions, leading you to a place of peace. Today, choose to reflect God's love, even in moments of frustration.

Dr. Joe Pettigrew | Key Corner Street | Brownsville, TN
38012 US

Church Staff

Barbara MerkelAdmin Assistant
Judy Heffley Organist
Donna SheafferBell 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>

JULY 2025

\$15,938.54



\$12,503.52

A special thank you to
Pastor Sara for all she
has done for our church.
We will miss you!!
- St. Paul's UCC



Hello St. Paul's:

September is coming and yes St. Paul's will be waking up. September 7th is RALLY DAY, Teacher Dedication, and Grandparents Day. OMG, It is Rejoicing Spirits also at 3:00 PM. Have you ever been to this service? It is spiritual and FUN. Outdoor worship service at Wessner's Grove on September 21st AND start thinking about what color mums you would like to sponsor in the Sanctuary on September 28th.

I checked on the Mice group and they are busy, busy, busy. The crafters for the Bazaar will be starting soon. See Pal or Louise if you would like to help.

Did you know the Kutztown Brandywine Cougar Cheerleaders use a room in our basement to practice? They donated \$450.00 to St. Paul's as part of a fundraiser. And Ashley, the organizer of this group, said there is more to come. How wonderful!!!!

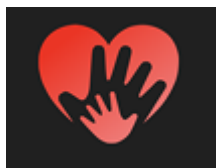
We are still searching for a Sexton. Jerry and Erin are working on that. We thank the volunteers who have been helping to keep the church clean.

If you find you have time in your day and do not know what you really want to do, come over to Whiteoak Street and I am sure we can find something.

Well, that is the September run down. If you need anything let Barbara in the office know.

As usual, I see a snack with my name on it.

- Oliver



YOUNG AT HEART

On Wednesday, July 16, Missy Blatt introduced Therapy Dogs along with her certified therapy dog Gracie. Gracie weekly attends the Kutztown Community Library to spend time with the children. Missy gave a presentation about the background of therapy dogs and what is required for the intensive training and certification. Gracie is very dedicated to Missy and attends public school when Missy is teaching. The Golden Retriever helps to calm the children and makes them feel comfortable to open up talking and reading with her when they might not otherwise. Even in nursing homes and hospitals, Gracie uses her skills to be a therapeutic comfort to patients.

Also, Hazel Heiter, a young teen, brought her one-year-old Black Labrador Retriever, Opal, who has lots of pep. Hazel demonstrated how the lab has learned a number of entertaining tricks. She was very well-behaved during Missy's presentation and later showed some excitement to meet people in the audience. Hazel explained how she had been training her, with the possibility of her becoming a therapy dog. Opal is on the way to bigger and better things since she has already won several awards for obedience.

It was a fun day and near the end of the meeting, the attendees shared some of their personal experiences with dogs. One person related how dogs have never liked her. In fact, she had been bitten several times. However, one day a dog showed her so much attention licking her and showing affection. Later that same day, the woman suffered a mild stroke. That may have been one of those times when a dog can sense a disruption in the person's physical or emotional state. That is the reason some people have a certified therapeutic dog as a companion to sense a warning for such things as high glucose levels, seizures, etc. Therapy dogs can be a real blessing to young and old.

Kathy Landis

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 17th – Protect yourself against SCAMS with Police Sgt. Skavinsky and Matt Williams, Firefly Store Co-Owner

October 15th – Craig Koller – "Stories from the Quilt Barn"

November 19th – Service project for Willow Brook

December 17th – Shaynah Kinner Day Care Christmas Concert

Come, bring a friend, enjoy the program, and fellowship every third Wednesday of each month here at St. Paul's UCC.



<https://corporate.behr.com/responsibility/community>

‘To us, giving back is simply doing the right thing. We believe in making a positive difference in people’s lives — not only through our products, but also by investing in communities where we work and live. Our team members are champions of change and stewards of their communities. To empower their giving spirit, we match charitable donations. To encourage and recognize their hands-on involvement, we provide paid time for volunteering in ways that are meaningful to them, such as home-rebuild projects, painting initiatives, and more. We have maintained long-term partnerships with more than thirty nonprofits, allowing us to amplify our impact and make a difference in a wide range of important areas.”

St. Paul’s is fortunate to be a receiver of “Behr Cares.” Brian Unger will be here on Friday, September 5th, 2025, to volunteer his time and help St. Paul’s with projects that need to be addressed. Brian has volunteered for the past two years at St. Paul’s, doing whatever we need with a smile.

So, if there is a committee that needs help, let the office know and we will add it to “Brian’s To Do List.”

Thank you, Brian, for choosing St. Paul’s.

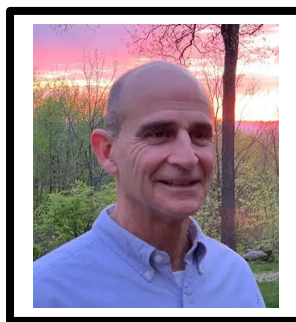
SCRIPTURES

September 7th – Jeremiah 18:1-11
Luke 14:25-33

September 14th – Psalm 14
Luke 15:1-10

September 21st – Amos 8:4-7
Luke 16:1-13

September 28th – Jeremiah 31:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 146



Rev. Dr. Jim H. Latimer
Interim Pastor

On Tuesday, September 2nd, we welcome Rev. Dr. Jim H. Latimer to St. Paul’s as our new Interim Pastor. Pastor Jim will assist our Search Committee complete the long profile which will take us closer to a settled pastor.

Rev. Dr. James H. Latimer is a Professional Certified Coach and a committed Intentional Interim Minister. As the founder of CoachingForInterims.com, he hosts the collaborative “Wisdom from the Field” podcast project featuring brief interviews with transitional interim ministers, and others, with practical help and wisdom to offer those engaged in transitional ministry.

He has been coaching ministry leaders and teams for many years around vitality, ministry effectiveness, governance, and leadership development, including nine years as a staff coach with the Convergence (Formerly the Center for Progressive Renewal). He also teaches coaching leadership skills to ministry leaders and is a former faculty member with Coaching4Clergy. As both a settled and transitional minister, he has served UCC congregations in CA, PA, OH, CT and MA. He recently concluded an interim with South Congregational Church UCC, Amherst, MA.

His diverse background includes degrees in divinity, engineering, business, and Asian Studies. He loves singing, cross-country skiing, tennis, speed rollerblading and foreign languages. He and his partner, Brooke, live in Phoenixville.

September Birthdays



Linda Arndt	September 1
Kian D'Agusto	September 1
Layton D'Agusto	September 1
Tamara Fitzgerald	September 1
Aaron Kulp	September 1
Caleb Moyer	September 1
Myles Moriarty	September 2
Nancy O'Neil	September 3
Julie Schmoyer	September 3
Lois Beekey	September 5
Christine Keim	September 5
Sandy Scholar	September 5
Robert Heffner	September 7
Ann Oswald	September 7
Marilyn (Pal) Eckert	September 11
Larry Seaman	September 11
April Steltz	September 12
Kimberly Arndt	September 13
Sherry Leinbach	September 13
Connie Ashenfelder	September 16
John Printz	September 22
Jan Lenich	September 23
Jennifer McCarroll	September 23
Kara Reed	September 23
Shirley Stricker	September 23
Steven Ziegler	September 23
Rebecca Freeman	September 25
Kathy Landis	September 27
Taylor Fenstermacher	September 28
Dylan Geisinger	September 28
Joan Gangewere	September 30



REJOICING SPIRITS of Eastern Berks County

On Sunday, August 3rd, Pastor Sara spoke about sharing your wealth. A few hours later we heard the same message from Pastor Chris at Rejoicing Spirits. Hannah DeVall read the scripture lesson, Luke 12: 16-21. (Almost identical to the scripture read by Daryn Keim Sunday morning!) Pastor Chris, Keith Wuchter, and Amy (parent of a Rejoicer) explained the message using a skit about Billy (Keith) and his lemonade stand. Billy learned to share his wealth from the lemonade stand. While there was much laughter the message came across loud and clear! Snacks, a craft and fellowship followed the service.

Thank you to our volunteers and those who attended the service.

In October it will be three years that St. Paul's has been hosting this ministry. We will have a special fellowship time after the service. Mark your calendar and join us on October 5th!

Erin Webb,
Co-chair of Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County





Greetings from Consistory

Hope you are having a great summer filled with relaxation, gratifying activities, adventure, spiritual nurture, and friends and family. I am going to briefly summarize what is happening within the church although we had no regular July Consistory meeting. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 20. Remember, if you have any suggestions or questions, feel free to speak with Steve Leinbach, Daryn Keim, or myself.

As I mentioned last month, the primary effort from Consistory and the Transition Team has been to hire an interim pastor. Consistory approved the hiring of Pastor Jim Latimer in a special Consistory meeting. Then, the offer was made, and Pastor Jim Latimer has verbally agreed to the terms of the Call Agreement after some negotiations. Since he is still on vacation, signing the agreement has been delayed. However, when Pastor Jim returns from his trip, we expect him to sign, and then officers of St. Paul's will also sign to make the covenant agreement official. Pastor Jim will begin his approximately one-year interim term with our church on Tuesday, September 2, and will preach on Sunday, September 7. Some of you may recall that he was the supply pastor on Sunday, July 20. By that time, he had been interviewed but the offer had not yet been made.

As a reminder, Pastor Jim has been hired as a three-quarter time minister, which calls for an average of 30-35 hours per week as opposed to full-time at about 40-50 hours. The number of responsibilities will be altered to be appropriate for the fewer hours, taking into account priorities. After the Call Agreement is signed, the Consistory and Pastor will share with the congregation what those pastoral responsibilities will be so expectations will be realistic and understandable.

How will we welcome our new pastor? Would someone or a group please offer to make a welcome sign or banner that we could hang to greet Pastor Jim on September 2? What about the Fellowship Committee and/or Women's Guild plan a simple lunch or refreshments following the church service on September 7? Also, we will all be wearing our name tags again for a couple of months to help the pastor get to know us.

Here is a brief summary of Pastor James (Jim) Latimer's profile and qualifications:

- Professional Certified Coach
- Church revitalization training
- In-depth experience in Transitional and Interim Ministry
- Coach for Interim ministers
- Pastoral Care/Counseling
- Doctor of Ministry (Harvard Seminary)
- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts and MBA
- Good sense of humor
- Passion for music-playing guitar and sings
- Straightforward sermon style

On another note, Personnel is actively seeking a sexton. In the meantime, several church members have been graciously keeping the church clean by wiping sinks and toilets, mopping floors, dusting, replenishing paper towels and toilet paper, and vacuuming. Please take time to thank these kind volunteers and/or offer your assistance.

Getting the budget together for 2026 is taking place, and Missions is making dinners for the senior living apartments in Kutztown for the next few months. Vacation Bible School was a big success.

In the coming weeks, as Pastor Sara said in her sermon on August 10, let us "take the first step" of faith by showing our hospitality and welcoming nature to our new Interim minister, Pastor Jim. Be positive and together let us offer our assistance and encouragement to him. Allow him to guide us in our process to complete our Long Church Profile and begin our Search for a settled pastor. Let us take advantage of his expertise and education to help us learn new and better ways to communicate openly, not only with our pastor but also with each other.

Early on, come and introduce yourself to Pastor Jim and get to know him. He is planning to gather small groups of people to meet with him so he can learn more about us and St. Paul's.

Catch the Spirit, Embrace the Journey!

Submitted by Kathy Landis



TEACHER DEDICATION & GRANDPARENT'S DAY!

Sunday, September 7 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

We invite all our youth and their families to join us for Rally Day as we kickoff another Sunday School year on Sunday, September 7 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast in honor of Rally Day and Grandparents' Day. Families, please plan to stay with your child to enjoy breakfast and invite all the grandparents to come along!



SCUBA
VBS



Our combined St. Paul's/Trinity VBS swam off to an enormous success this year with twenty-eight youth and twenty-three adult or older youth helpers. Children enjoyed our amazing decorations and learned how to dive into a friendship with God. Many thanks to Bethany Church, as well as several other churches, who provided decorations to us. Save the date for an Alaskan Wilderness Adventure in "True North" VBS 2026 next summer -- July 19-23, 2026 (Sunday thru Thursday) at St. Paul's.



– Louise Moyer



Now What Do We Do?

So... here we are again, right? Entering the final stages of choosing another pastor for St. Paul's. Is this just another 'lather, rinse, and repeat' process like shampooing your hair? I do not think so and I pray it is not.

Certain elements of all this have absolutely been something we have experienced before. Honestly, some factors involved are the same as before, but some are definitely not. We cannot submit to becoming impatient, rushing this process. We must let God's timing in all this work us into His Will. Our discomfort with how long it is taking, the changing of the guard, (as it was right in the middle of it all), must not be allowed to derail us in this process.

Truly, we are at a critical stage in the life of this church, and perhaps precariously perched on the precipice. But that is not a signal to give up. Instead, we must band together as never before. We must honor and support and pray for and encourage and love each other as much, and even more than ever before. This Body of Christ, nor any other body, will survive without that. We must see in each other what God sees in us. We must sacrifice for and love each other as Christ did for each one of us, and we must pray for each other and this Body of Christ as hard, and harder, than we ever have before.

In the grand scheme of things, the world will not concern itself about whether we close our doors or not. For the world, it will merely be one less obstacle in Satan's way on his quest to conquer this world. Another notch on his belt, another headstone in the cemetery of once strong churches. But, my brothers and sisters, God does NOT want it to be that way. In fact, we know Satan does not win this battle in the end.

As with each one of us and our personal salvation, it is not something we can even make happen by ourselves. We MUST fully rely on our Heavenly Father, His Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit for this to change. We must submit each of ourselves fully unto God, and to His Will for this to come about.

God's Word tells us that what God has begun; He will see to completion. We must have faith because we know God does not lie, He cannot lie. We cannot take any of the credit, but instead we must pray and commit totally to God's Will for this church for it to be so.

The final revision to our church's profile will begin shortly. It should not take long, we will be working from a very good profile done a few short years ago, but we must make it apply to our current situation. Pray for us as we carry out that process AND pray that God brings the best pastor for us.

If anyone feels they are being led to help on the Search committee, please prayerfully consider it and contact me or anyone else on the committee. We are hoping to add at least one more person. Is God calling you?

Yours in Jesus Christ,
Keith, Mandy, Sue, Daryn – Search Committee

OFFICIAL CALL

Covenant Association Fall Meeting

October 26, 2025

Good Shepherd UCC, 170 Tuckerton Road, Reading, PA 19605

2 p.m. Choir Practice
2 p.m. Registration
3 p.m. Worship

At the spring Association meeting held at St. Paul's in Amityville, I heard your comments regarding our meetings. Many wrote on their cards that it was boring, why should they attend. Others thought that having different choirs or music would be appreciated.

Well, I have exciting news regarding Covenant Association's Fall meeting! Your Executive Committee is hard at work to make this a new and an inspiring time to gather as the body of Christ. Our meeting will be in the form of a worship service. All of the items that the Association needs to legally take care of, will be done in a way that glorifies our Lord and Savior.

We are also making time for all of us to make connections with people from other churches. Be thinking about what exciting ministry is taking place in your congregation. We want to know how you are providing for the people in your community. We want to know all those events that are outside the walls of your building. So be thinking about that and be ready to share.

We will also have a combined choir. We will have inspirational music that praises and gives thanks for all that God is doing in our lives. PLEASE email me with the number of singers that your church will be sending. Also send me your mailing address and I will mail the music to your church. Your folks can practice on their own or with your minister of music's help. Then we will gather at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary of Good Shepherd UCC in Tuckerton to practice as one choir.

I can't wait to see you on Sunday, October 26, 2025. If you have been saying, why do we have to go to the Association meeting, or what does the Association do for us? Then you need to attend this time! Because we are going to talk about how we are stronger when we work together. AND we will be talking about how the Association can help you, your pastor, and your church. SO you do not want to miss this new event!!!!

All reports and documents will be posted on the Covenant Association website 30 days prior to the gathering. PLEASE Make sure to read those ahead of time! The website is covenantassociation.org.

SEE YOU SOON!

Sharon S. Morris

Moderator

SEPTEMBER 2025

Worship—10:15 AM
Sunday School—9:00 AM Adult SS 8:45 AM
Office: Tuesday—Thursday 8 AM—12:00 Noon
(Due to church schedule, appointments suggested for Pastor)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY	2 Rev. Dr. James Latimer's first day as Interim Pastor 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 7 PM Bible Study	3 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement)	4 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 6-9 PM Lions Club (FH)	5	6 8:30 AM Manna 9 AM-12:30 PM Button Club (Lounge) 9:30 AM Yoga
7 9-10 AM RALLY DAY TEACHER DEDICATION DAY GRANDPARENT'S DAY 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits	8 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice	9 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 10 AM Worship Mtg.	10 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 7 PM Consistory	11 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement)	12	13 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga
14 Luncheon after Worship to Welcome Pastor Jim	15 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice 6:30 PM Fellowship 6:45 PM Missions PULSE DEADLINE	16 9 AM Bazaar Crafting 4 PM—Missions at Wilson Manor 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 7 PM Bible Study	17 10 AM—Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H & H Quilters 5-9 PM KB Cougars	18 5-9 PM KB Cougars 6-8:30 PM Lions Club (Lounge)	19	20 9:30 AM Yoga
21 10-15 AM Outdoor Worship-Wessner's Grove	22 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice 7 PM Property	23 9 AM Bazaar Crafting 5-9 PM KB Cougars 7 PM Christian Ed	24 5-9 PM KB Cougars	25 5-9 PM KB Cougars	26	27 9:30 AM Yoga 9 AM—10 PM Crafting
28 HARVEST HOME MUMS	29 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice	30 9 AM Bazaar Crafting 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement)				