

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

OCT VOL 56 #10

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

*May October bring you the
beauty of falling leaves, the
warmth of cozy moments,
and the inspiration to
embrace change with grace.*



BUDGET

BY-LAWS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

October 5 – Worldwide Communion
Rejoicing Spirits Third
Anniversary Celebration

October 12 – Bible Sunday

October 15 – PULSE DEADLINE

October 26 – Covenant Association
Meeting

MEMORIAL FUNDS

Letters have been sent to the families of loved ones that were remembered by donations to St. Paul's Memorial Fund. Our wish list included boiler replacement fund, television for fellowship hall, history of Pastors plaques, and any other suggestions were welcome. If your loved one has a memorial fund, please let the office know in writing how you would like the funds to be used. Thank you.

Why Do We Need Forgiveness?

Forgiveness is at the very heart of our faith. Without it, our relationship with God and others becomes fractured, weighed down by guilt, resentment, and regret. But why is forgiveness so essential, and what does it accomplish in our lives?

Sin separates us from God, creating a divide we cannot cross on our own. God's gift of forgiveness, made possible through Jesus' sacrifice, bridges that chasm. It allows us to draw close to Him, no longer defined by our mistakes but by His grace. Through forgiveness, we are cleansed, set free from the weight of our wrongdoing, and welcomed into fellowship with a loving Father who never withholds His mercy from those who seek it.

Forgiveness also transforms how we interact with others. Relationships inevitably bring hurt—intentional or not—and holding on to anger or bitterness only deepens the pain. Forgiving does not mean ignoring the wrong done to us, but it does mean choosing to release the debt. It is a decision to trust God with our wounds, no longer letting resentment define our hearts or actions. This is only possible because we have experienced His forgiveness firsthand. When we forgive, we reflect God's nature and make space for healing, reconciliation, and peace.

However, forgiveness requires humility. It means admitting our own need for grace and extending that grace to others, even when it feels undeserved. It is less about fairness and more about faith—faith that God will bring restoration in ways we cannot and faith that the freedom found in forgiveness is worth the cost.

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

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. James Latimer.....Interim Pastor
Barbara MerkelAdmin Assistant
Judy Heffley Organist
Donna SheafferBell Choir Director

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>

Dear St. Paul's Family:

I want to thank you for all the help you have given me in these last few years.

I appreciated all the calls, visits, goodie bags, and most of all the prayers. I am most thankful to John and Carl for the rides to church.

I am now settling into my new home in North Carolina. After almost 70 years, it is hard to make a change, but this is God's plan. I miss you all.

Blessings

Brenda

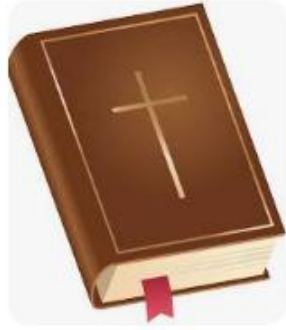
AUGUST 2025

\$43,864.37



\$13,035.96





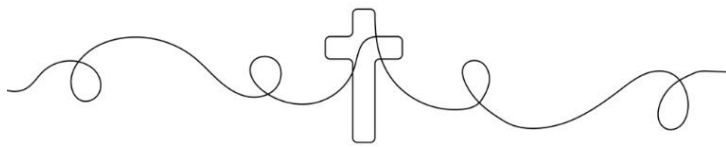
SCRIPTURES

October 5th - Luke 17:5-10

October 12th - Psalm 66:1-12

October 19th - Genesis 32:22-31

October 26th - Luke 18:9-14



R. Joe Hartman

June 25, 1930 – August 7, 2025

We said goodbye to a member of St. Paul's UCC on August 7th, 2025. We offer prayers for the family and thank God for the time Joe was with us.



The Star Button Club

This club has used St. Paul's Lounge for many years. It is with sadness, that I received the church key returned and they will not be meeting anymore. As per Joan Tyl, President, "Age and infirmities have taken a toll."

I have always been curious about this group, so I had a little chat with Joan.

They love to collect buttons and sometimes they come across a button they FEEL has value. If their own research fails them, they turn to members for help on valuing the button, and hopefully they all do not get stumped.

I asked Joan, "Where do you find the buttons?" She said, "mostly at yard sales and when family's clean-out their attics." Joan found a button worth \$100.00 in a mason jar at a yard sale.

To my surprise, there is an actual Button Auction. Joan told me about collectors, a father, and son that only collected Military buttons. Due to their notoriety, they were unable to bid at auctions without the bids going too high because people knew they wanted certain buttons. Joan was asked to bid for them, which she did and secured two buttons for \$500.00 each and one for \$1400.00. She also received a reputation that day for really knowing her military buttons.

I shared with Joan that to this day I have my mom's button tin filled with all kinds of buttons. I am sure many of us have these "button tins."

I left it with Joan that St. Paul's door is always open to them.

Joan's final quote to us all, "Don't throw away your grandmother's buttons."

- Barbara Merkel

From the Desk of our Interim Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

I am delighted and honored to serve as the Interim Pastor here at St. Paul's UCC. Since my first contact with the team that interviewed me last summer, I have been struck by your authentic faithfulness, how much you love your church and take seriously the many ministries God has entrusted to you. In my first weeks with you, your enthusiastic welcome and many kindnesses are much appreciated. I have also appreciated your warm welcome of my partner, Brooke Hallowell.

As Interim Pastor, I will assume many of the duties of a settled pastor as well as help to guide the transition related duties and programs of the interim time. Since our arrangement calls for me to serve you in a $\frac{3}{4}$ time capacity, I will not be able to serve you like a full-time pastor would. We will need to set our priorities carefully. And while I live in Phoenixville, I will try to be physically present as much as is reasonable and try to have an open door when I am in the office. I want to meet you, get to know you, and hear your stories – your passions, interests, and God-moments. In addition, I want to learn about your rich history, traditions, and practices.

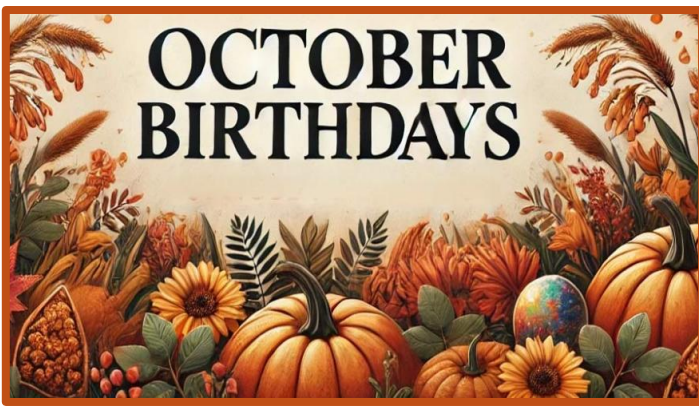
If Sunday morning is not convenient please feel free to contact me by email or phone so we can connect at a time and in a place that is workable for you. I enjoy a good cup of coffee so that is always an option!

Fall ministry programming is now gearing up and it looks like the 2025-26 ministry year will be full of the Spirit. I am eager to lead collaboratively with the exceptional staff and lay leadership here at St. Paul's.

In the days and months to come I look forward to getting to know each of you as we work side-by-side for the mission and ministry of St. Paul's UCC.

Christ love,

Rev. Jim



**REJOICING SPIRITS of
Eastern Berks County**

Join Us!

On Sunday, October 5th, we will be celebrating three years of Rejoicing Spirits of Eastern Berks County! St. Paul's has been the host site since the beginning of this ministry. Retired Pastor Susan Lishman will be the lead pastor for the October worship service.

The worship service will begin at 3:00 PM with fellowship following the service. Our fellowship time will feature cake, hot dogs, cotton candy, and soft pretzel nuggets for snack. There will be games, prizes, balloons, and photo opportunities.

Erin Webb, Co-chair
Rejoicing Spirits

Lisa Rarick	October 3
John Schmoyer	October 3
Cynthia Swan	October 4
Austin Wuchter	October 4
Christina Richard	October 5
MacKenna Kalin	October 6
Gail Keim	October 6
David Valuska	October 7
Ethel DeMatteo-Beck	October 9
Dylan Thompson	October 10
Guy A. Herring, Jr.	October 13
Sofia Rocha	October 13
Emily Kalin	October 14
Brent Fenstermacher	October 15
Julie O'Neil	October 16
Ann Rollman	October 19
Jodi Weaknecht	October 25
Susan Schmoyer	October 26
Keith Boyer	October 27
Brandon Wuchter	October 28
Benjamin Rarick	October 29
Cheryl Ziegler	October 29
Kristen Angstadt	October 30





Greetings from Consistory

Last month we were anticipating a fresh start with a new pastor. As expected, Pastor James Latimer (Pastor Jim) began as our Interim Pastor on Tuesday, September 2 and preached on Sunday, September 7. During his first week, he spent time getting to know Barb and the office practices and met with Kathy to learn about the Consistory and what the church's business priorities are at the moment. During the second week, he organized his "Meet and Greet with Pastor Jim" to meet

members, "hear their stories," and build relationships within our congregation. To set up a time for you to participate, please sign up on the window outside the church office or call the office.

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. Currently, he is planning to be in the office from 10 AM to 1 PM, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Also, he would like to meet with the Transition/Search Team in the next week or two.

On Sunday, September 14, St. Paul's served a delicious luncheon and cake after the church service to welcome Pastor Jim. We offered a short speech about how we are glad to have him with us and then played part of the song "Welcome to My World" recorded by Elvis Presley. The fellowship was well attended and everyone had time to chat. When Pastor cut the cake, he invited us to gather around him for a memorable photo. Keep Pastor Jim in your prayers and continue to encourage him and offer your assistance.

Another topic at the Consistory has been the cleaning of the church since we have no sexton. The deacons and other volunteers, including members of the Property Committee, have been keeping the church clean. Plus, Brian Unger from his participation in his company's Behr Cares program scrubbed floors, sprayed weeds, lubricated the stairlift, etc. In the week ahead, a janitorial company will be coming to the church to do an initial cleaning. Based on their performance, the church may continue to use them for our housekeeping chores. However, they may only be here for 4 hours/week so some volunteers will be needed occasionally to take on other chores. This is an effort to reduce the impact on our church budget. Recently the church has been transferring funds from Merrill Lynch accounts, more than usual, to keep up with bills and payroll.

Speaking of the 2026 budget, it has been approved by the Consistory and will be brought before the congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting on November 16. Also, the revised bylaws that were approved by the Consistory will be presented for congregational members to approve. All members will receive the proposed budget and bylaws through email so that everyone will have time to review 30 days prior to the meeting.

Another item before the Consistory is the request from Cornerstone Community Church to use our Fellowship Hall for their worship services and two other rooms currently unused for their children's Sunday School. Several members of St. Paul's have met with Pastor Nate and four other members of his church to discuss the possibilities. Cornerstone approached St. Paul's back in July with their request. The Consistory spent time discussing the issue with many questions. In the next couple of weeks, we will hold a special Consistory meeting in which members of the congregation are welcome to attend and express their various points of view. At that time, the Consistory may take a vote whether to allow Cornerstone to use our facilities. They will be paying rent each month for their use. If you have any questions and would like to learn more, please speak to Kathy Landis, Steve Leinbach, Louise Moyer, or Dave Abel since they met with the Cornerstone group.

Catch the Spirit, Embrace the Journey!

Submitted by Kathy Landis



YOUNG AT HEART

On Wednesday, September 17, thirteen people enjoyed the presentation by Karin Crossley, Illustrator. Her highlight was "Creativity for Everyone," encouraging all attendees to use a "simple notebook and carefree 'play' to spark their creative fire."

First, Karin told of her history in the art field and how she started in illustration and recently graduated with a master's degree in Illustration. Also, she showed many examples of her art on screen and displayed many originals of different styles. Her graduate thesis was a series of playing cards illustrating caricatures of famous people matching their songs, or their acting roles, historical significance, etc.- definitely depicting her creative talent.

Then, Karin showcased all the materials she had brought with her to create artwork in the notebooks she had given out. There were tables filled with books and magazines, pictures and text, paints, colored pencils, stickers, buttons, paintbrushes, rollers for painting, fabric, etc.

Everyone designed something unique to their personality. In the process Karin helped with the "how-to," sometimes demonstrating, and encouraging each person's effort to be creative. Before people left, they all shared their artwork with the group. It was challenging, but fun at the same time.

Young at Heart 2025 SCHEDULE:

**Third Wednesday of every month
Always 10 AM – 12 noon.**

Come, bring a friend, and enjoy the program and fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 15: Craig Koller, Stories from the Quilt Barn

November 19: Service Project for Willow Brook

December 17: Shaynah Kinner Daycare, Christmas program

- Kathy Landis

Church Volunteers



Why Be A Volunteer?

It is not for money; it is not for fame.

It is not for any personal gain.

It is just for love of fellowman.

It is just to send a helping hand.

It is just to give a tithe of self.

That is something you cannot buy
with wealth.

It is not medals won with pride.

It is for that feeling deep inside.

It is that reward down in your heart.

It is that feeling that you have been
a part.

Of helping others far and near, that
makes you a
VOLUNTEER!!!!!!

- Author Unknown



OCTOBER 2025

Worship—10:15 AM
 Sunday School—9:00 AM Adult SS 8:45 AM
 Pastor Hours (In Office: Tuesday—Thursday 10 AM—1:00 PM) Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 8:00 AM—Noon
 (Due to church schedule, appointments suggested for Pastor)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement)	2 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 6-9 PM Lions Club (FH) 6:15 PM Bell Choir	3	4 9:30 AM Yoga
5 WW Communion Consistory Meeting PASTOR SUNDAY 3 PM Rejoicing Spirits 3rd Yr. Celebration	6 2-4 PM Bazaar Craft- ing 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice	7 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 7 PM Bible Study	8 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 7 PM Consistory	9 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 6:15 PM Bell Choir	10	11 9 AM Prayer Walk 9:30 AM Yoga
12 BIBLE SUNDAY	13 2-4 PM Bazaar Craft- ing 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice	14 10 AM Worship Mtg- 4 PM Missions at Saucony Cross 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 7 PM Finance Mtg.	15 10 AM—Noon Young at Heart 2-9 PM H &H Quilters 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) PULSE DEADLINE	16 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 6-8:30 PM Private Event (Lounge)	17	18 9:30 AM Yoga
19	20 2-4 PM Bazaar Craft- ing 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice 6:30 PM Fellowship 6:45 PM Missions	21 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 7 PM Bible Study	22 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement)	23 5-9 PM KB Cougars (Basement) 6:15 PM Bell Choir	24	25 9:30 AM Yoga 9 AM—10 PM Craft- ing
26 3 PM Covenant Asso- ciation Meeting	27 2-4 PM Bazaar Craft- ing 6 PM Yoga 6-8 PM Mice 7 PM Property	28 7 PM Christian Ed	29	30 6:15 PM Bell Choir	31	