

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

NOV VOL 56 #11

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

## NOVEMBER

**B**e present.

**L**et the day flow with grace.

**E**xpect joy. Be positive.

**S**erve with compassion.

**S**peak only kindness.

**I**mpart only love.

**N**ever forget you are not alone.

**G**ive thanks for everything.

**S**ee goodness in others.

Mary Davis

## 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.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 2 - All Saint's Day

November 5 - Community Dinner

November 9 - Veteran's Day

Youth Led Worship

November 16 - Congregational Meeting

November 23 - Decorate the Sanctuary

November 30 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

## SEPTEMBER 2025

\$10,061.20



\$21,478.90

## When A Person Changes

Change can feel overwhelming and uncertain. It is easy to resist because stepping into the unknown requires trust, faith, and surrender. But when God initiates change in someone's life, it is always purposeful and good. He does not just transform "what we do;" He renews who we are at the very core of our being.

The Bible promises that through Christ, we become a new creation. This transformation does not mean we will not face struggles or setbacks. It means God is continually working within us to mold us into His image. He takes our brokenness, regrets, and even our sins, and replaces them with hope, strength, and a heart that beats in alignment with His will.

Personal change can also be a testimony of God's power to others. When people see a new kindness in your words, an unexpected peace in your trials, or a quiet confidence that stems from faith, they may be drawn closer to God themselves. Transformation does not happen overnight, but it is a process fueled by His Spirit, filled with growth, and blossoming into something beautiful.

Sometimes, the change God brings starts small – a softened heart, a more generous spirit, or a stronger commitment to Him. Other times, it is radical, as He breaks chains of sin, heals deep wounds, or redirects an entire life. Regardless of how it happens, God's power to make us new is real and certain. He is always ready to do a transforming work in anyone who seeks Him.

Take a moment today to reflect on the ways God has worked in your life. Celebrate where you have seen growth or healing and trust Him for the areas where you still long for change. Remember, it is not about striving for perfection; it is about allowing God to shape you into who He has created you to be.

Dr. Joe Pettigrew

## JOB OPENING – CUSTODIAL POSITION AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Kutztown, PA has an immediate opening for a part-time custodial position. The job responsibilities include cleaning the following areas: church sanctuary, bathrooms, kitchen, hallways, office, and Sunday School rooms. Cleaning involves dusting, vacuuming, mopping, washing, etc. as appropriate. Expected number of hours is approximately 8-12 per week. Compensation is \$16-\$18 per hour, depending on qualifications and experience. Statements of interest should be sent to Barbara Merkel, Church Admin. (email: [office@stpaulskutztown.org](mailto:office@stpaulskutztown.org) phone: 610-683-3393). A complete job description will be sent to all interested applicants.

## Church Staff

Rev. Dr. James Latimer.....Interim Pastor  
Barbara Merkel .....Admin Assistant  
Judy Heffley ..... Organist  
Donna Sheaffer .....Bell 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>

## DEACONS NEEDED

Nominations for Deacons will be presented at the Congregational meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup>. St. Paul's is calling you to prayerfully think about serving. The term is for three years. Being on duty is once every three weeks. You are required to attend Consistory Meetings held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Deacon duties are assigned to each Deacon and are interchangeable each time you serve. A Deacon pamphlet is available in the church office. If God is calling you to use your talents by serving St. Paul's, please let Kathy Landis know.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/hotvl4eeVnQ?si=MxJvsOM0Hg0al6x6&t=1561>

*For thus says our God: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says God, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (Jeremiah 29:10-14)*

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

I celebrate the success we've had so far with the Meet & Greets. Thirty-five of you have joined me in these gatherings. We've learned much about each other's stories and life experiences and aspirations (and some heartaches) that all serve to strengthen the pastor – congregation relationship. And the stronger that relationship is, the more fruitful and joyful our interim time together will be.

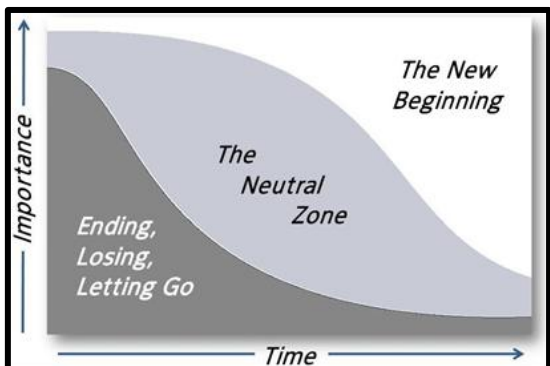
My sermon message of September 28, *A Future with Hope*, (based on Jeremiah 29:10-14; YouTube recording link is above) was my attempt to speak to the current moment where St. Paul's finds itself from a change management perspective. Like the Israelite exiles in Babylon described by Jeremiah, we too have experienced major changes, and also like them, we are in transition. As management consultant William Bridges puts it, "It isn't the changes that do you in, it's the transitions."

Bridges' Model from his book, "Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change"

explains the process of Change and Transition:

- Change – what *happens* to us;
- Transition – *adjusting* to the change;
- New Beginning (New Normal) – where we end up.

Change and Transition are different things. Change is situational: a move, a retirement, a departed pastor, an empty nest, etc., whereas Transition is *psychological*. Bridges further outlines Transition as a 3-phase process of internalizing (coming to terms) with the details of the new situation the change brings.



From the Desk of our Interim Pastor

The 3 Phases of Transition are: Ending and Letting go, Neutral Zone and New Beginning.

*Ending and Letting Go* – of old ways and identities that no longer pertain. When we humans have to let go of a thing, a person or a way of being that was valuable, we typically experience anxiety, anger, confusion, excitement and stress. This is normal.

*The Neutral Zone* is the core of the Transition process. It's the space where the change has occurred, yet we haven't fully embraced or accepted it. It's an in-between time. The old is gone but the new isn't fully operational or comfortable. It's akin to a TRAPEZE act: we've let go of one swing but not yet grasped the next one. We're gliding through midair so to speak. As such, it's a psychological no-man's-land. Despite its disorienting feature, there is great opportunity for realignments and new patterns, a space for learning and to consider options.

In theological terms, Transitions have most potential to experience God's presence. Awareness is key. *If you search for me, you will find me....*

We here at St. Paul's are in the NEUTRAL zone, the very core of the Transition process. The Neutral Zone is disorienting, yet also a place of opportunity. Both danger and opportunity.

*For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

A future with hope comes from a present with hope. It isn't the changes that do you in, it's the transitions. When we lose sight of the fact that it's the transitions – the present moments – that offer the richest invitation to experience God's Presence. Why? Because we can *talk* about God's presence in our past. We can *dream* about God's presence in our future. But we can only *experience* God's presence now – the present moment.

*Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you find me...*

My role as Interim Pastor during our Neutral Zone time is to support you as pastor, coach and fellow traveler as together we:

- discover new options for moving forward;
- determine gaps – mindset, skills, etc.;
- uncover obvious and hidden obstacles
- define what God wants us to become.

*For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare...to give you a future with hope.*

Christ's love,

Rev. Jim

From the Desk of our Interim Pastor

# REJOICING SPIRITS of EASTERN BERKS COUNTY

Sunday, October 5th, marked three years of Rejoicing Spirits here at St. Paul's. We celebrated with a carnival-themed fellowship time. We had games, a craft, lots of fun food and wonderful fellowship. Participants had the opportunity to have pictures taken behind a carnival-themed prop. Table center pieces were balloon animals created by our own Jan Lenich! Look for pictures on the bulletin board!

Retired Pastor Susan Lishman shared the message, "Celebrating All Gods Children!" Her skit featured "the mean usher" who refused to allow the children to attend worship. Kathy Landis and Louise DeVall were denied access because they brought their children! But Jesus intervened and invited them in!

Thank you to the members of St. Paul's who attend the celebration. We love when you join us!

An additional thank you to Jan Lenich, Barb Merkel, Sandy Fenstermacher and Denise Keim for EVERYTHING they did to make the day a success—setting up the room, preparing and serving the food, and end of event clean-up. You ladies are amazing! A very special thank you to Finn, Jan's grandson, for taking cotton candy orders and delivering the cotton candy to the Rejoicers. Thank you to Marge Weida for filling in for Laraine behind the scene projecting the slides and Keith Wuchter for handling parking.

I guess it really does take a village!

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





|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Carl Arndt           | November 2  |
| James Farber         | November 2  |
| Quinn Moyer          | November 2  |
| James Hoch           | November 3  |
| Sharon Eschbach      | November 8  |
| Jade Fitzgerald      | November 8  |
| Daniel Silberman     | November 8  |
| Geral Diehl          | November 11 |
| Jodi Brossman        | November 12 |
| Jacki Kutzler        | November 12 |
| Natalie Bauscher     | November 13 |
| Ava Boyer            | November 14 |
| Charles Magee        | November 14 |
| Katie Moyer          | November 14 |
| Jeffrey Schmoyer     | November 14 |
| Brian Moyer          | November 15 |
| Susan Peter          | November 15 |
| Stacy Fritz-Davies   | November 18 |
| David Leinbach       | November 18 |
| Emily Grim           | November 20 |
| Jacob Wessner        | November 21 |
| Michele Neiman       | November 22 |
| Sandra Fenstermacher | November 23 |
| Marjorie Bryde       | November 26 |
| Benjamin Reed        | November 26 |
| Sharon Seaman        | November 26 |
| Jennifer Galvis      | November 28 |
| Ray Moyer            | November 29 |



## BUDGET

## BY-LAWS

The 2026 proposed budget and By-Laws have been emailed on October 16<sup>th</sup> for your review and vote at the Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> after worship.

Please plan to attend.



## POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY

5 Inch pots w/foil & Protective Sleeve  
Cost - \$6.00

Colors - Red White

Orders due by - November 24<sup>th</sup>

Order forms outside church office  
Or

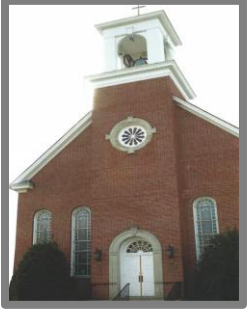
Call Barbara with your order  
(610) 683-3393

Or email:

office@stpaulskutztown.org



# Greetings from Consistory



At our Special Consistory meeting on October 5, 2025, twenty-seven congregants attended at the Consistory's invitation along with twelve members of the Consistory. Also, Pastor Jim attended. Due to the request of the Cornerstone church to worship in our Fellowship Hall and use two of the unoccupied rooms on the second floor for their Sunday School, the Consistory held this meeting to encourage St. Paul's members to ask questions and share thoughts and opinions.

Kathy explained the outline of what Cornerstone requested and what they would offer in return. Many members shared their concerns and opinions, and most were in the negative although a few members added other thoughts. Afterwards, the Consistory met and voted against the Cornerstone proposal. Kathy contacted Pastor Nate to give him St. Paul's decision explaining that the timing was difficult since we are in an interim period with no settled pastor and that we use the Fellowship Hall frequently. Pastor Nate understood, and we discussed other churches he may contact for space. In the meantime, his congregation will remain at Bethel.

Another topic at the Consistory on October 8 was the cleaning of the church since we have no sexton. The deacons and other volunteers, including members of the Property Committee, have been helping to keep the church clean. The janitorial company who agreed with Personnel and Property to clean the church appeared twice but did not bring a necessary contract or any background checks on employees. Now the Personnel Committee is searching for a reliable housekeeping service.

Another important result of the Consistory meeting was the approval of a few changes to the by-laws. They had been approved earlier in May of 2024 by the Consistory, and recent changes since then required additional approval. At the November 16<sup>th</sup> Congregational meeting, both the by-laws and the 2026 budget will be brought up for approval by the congregation. The office emailed members the by-laws and the budget. If you need a paper copy, let Barbara know. Please review both in advance of the meeting so that you will have an understanding beforehand. Also, the Pastor will share some insight on another important topic. Please join the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> immediately after Sunday worship.

If you would like any more information beyond what is in the Pulse, please ask any of the officers of the Consistory or the office. Also, you may read the Consistory minutes posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

Pastor Jim will be away from October 21 to November 7. For the next two Sundays, Pastor Sara Hertzog will lead worship.

Catch the Spirit, Embrace the Journey! And as Pastor Jim has said, "Wake up. Show up."

Submitted by Kathy Landis



# YOUNG AT HEART

Since the last Pulse, we enjoyed two very different Young At Heart presentations, one on September 17 and the other on October 15. On September 17, we heard from Sergeant Skavinsky of the Kutztown Police Department, and Matt Williams, co-owner of Firefly Bookstore. They spoke about SCAMS and FRAUD that can fool people out of valuables, money, etc. Sgt. Skavinsky elaborated on ten types of frequent scams, and Matt Williams spoke about scams and fraud he has witnessed through his business. Real-life examples were explained, what to look for, and how to identify a possible scam, and avoid falling prey.

One important identifier is the email address from which a message comes. The sender can use any well-known name you might recognize like Fed-Ex, Amazon, USPS, EZ Pass, etc., to catch your eye. Here's some advice: **You should place your cursor on the name of the sender and click to see what the actual email address of the sender is. In that way, you can tell who is sending you the email and know if it is a scam. Do not open any attachment. Do not respond to the email and then delete it.** The twenty-two people who attended, eleven from the community and eleven from St. Paul's agreed on the value of the program where they learned about the prevalence of scams, and how to protect themselves. Everyone left a little wiser.

On October 15, Craig Koller entertained with "Stories from the Quilt Barn." Thirty people attended, 16 from the community and 14 from St. Paul's. In addition to learning about some history of quilting and especially of the quilts from the PA Dutch Folk Festival over the years, the group heard fascinating stories of particular quilts and the women who made them. Craig shared numerous slides of prize-winning quilts, amazing works of art, about 50% from the Amish/Mennonite community. Also, Craig has enjoyed doing some quilting himself and finds it to be relaxing. However, much patience is required. Some of his stories were hilarious and left everyone in **STITCHES**. Here is a part of one poem shared at the event:

"The Quilt" by Tony Hoagland:

I wish I had a quilt made of all the memories when  
The quilt was folded and put away in a trunk  
And we forgot all about it for a while,  
So when we found it again and unfolded it,  
The smell of the soap and linseed oil would rise up into our faces...

Many thanks to our presenters, but also to the Young At Heart team: Marcia Keiser, Sharon Kozlowski, Sandi Madeira. Also, kudos to Barb Merkel for support, printing materials, creating the posters, and advertising.

Every third Wednesday of the month, always 10 AM – 12 noon.  
**Come, bring a friend and enjoy the program and fellowship.**

## **Young at Heart 2025 SCHEDULE:**

**November 19: Service Project for Willow Brook**

**December 17: Shaynah Kinner Daycare, Christmas program**

Submitted by Kathv Landis

# ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

*St. Paul's UCC Women's Guild*

## Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, December 6th

**9 am – 1 pm**



Christmas Mice  
Baked Goods  
Ornaments  
Cookies  
Crafts  
Take-out Food  
Books

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
47 South Whiteoak Street  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania  
(610) 683-3393

## COOKIES

November 29<sup>th</sup>

8 AM Cookie Mixing

December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

9 AM Cookie Baking

9 AM Cookie Baking

## \*FOOD PREPARATION & SET UP

December 3<sup>rd</sup>

9 AM

\*Bazaar Food Prep

6:30 PM

Bazaar Set-Up

December 4<sup>th</sup>

9 AM

\*Bazaar Food Prep

December 5<sup>th</sup>

9AM

\*Bazaar Food Prep

\*Please check with Denise Keim where help is needed.

**Volunteers/Donations needed:** Is God calling you to use your talents here? Help is ALWAYS needed in preparation of St. Paul's biggest fund raiser. We need your help in mixing cookies, baking cookies, and preparing food. We need individuals to help carry things up from the basement and set up Fellowship hall for crafts, and for the sale of our cookies and books. The mice will need two Christmas trees in the Lounge to display their mice. Join us, it is a wonderful time for fellowship with other members of the church.

Donations sheets will be posted shortly for cookie ingredients and items needed for food preparations. Monetary donations to purchase supplies is also appreciated.

# NOVEMBER 2025

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



| Sun                                                                                 | Mon                                                       | Tue                                                                                 | Wed                                                                         | Thu                                                                       | Fri                                               | Sat                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30<br>DEDICATION<br>SUNDAY                                                          |                                                           |                                                                                     |                                                                             |                                                                           |                                                   | 1<br>9:30 AM Yoga                                                                  |
| 2<br>PASTOR SUNDAY<br>ALL SAINTS DAY<br>Vet Day Project<br>Practice Worship Service | 3<br>2-4 PM Bazaar Crafting<br>6 PM Yoga                  | 4<br>5-9 PM KB Cougars<br>7 PM Bible Study                                          | 5<br>4:30—6 PM<br>Community Dinner<br>5-9 PM KB Cougars                     | 6<br>5-9 PM KB Cougars<br>6:15 PM Bell Practice<br>6-9 PM Lions Club (FH) | 7                                                 | 8<br>9 AM Prayer Walk<br>9:30 AM Yoga (upstairs)<br>11 AM-5-PM—Private Event (FH)  |
| 9 Veterans Day<br>Youth Worship Service                                             | 10<br>2-4 PM Bazaar Crafting<br>6 PM Yoga                 | 11<br>10 AM Worship Mtg.<br>5-9 PM KB Cougars                                       | 12<br>7 PM Consistory<br>5-9 PM KB Cougars                                  | 13<br>5-9 PM K B Cougars<br>6:15 PM Bell Practice                         | 14<br>7:30 PM Kutztown Folk Music—Piper's Request | 15<br>PULSE DEADLINE<br>8 AM (Private Event Kitchen/FH)<br>9:30 AM Yoga (Upstairs) |
| 16<br>CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP                                          | 17<br>6 PM Yoga<br>6:30 PM Fellowship<br>6:45 PM Missions | 18<br>9:30 AM-2:00 PM (Private Event FH/K)<br>5-9 PM KB Cougars<br>7 PM Bible Study | 19<br>10 AM—noon Young at Heart<br>2-9 PM H&H Quilters<br>5-9 PM KB Cougars | 20<br>5-9 PM KB Cougars<br>6-9 PM Lions Club (Lounge)                     | 21                                                | 22<br>9:30 AM Yoga                                                                 |
| 23<br>DECORATE THE SANCTUARY                                                        | 24<br>6 PM Yoga<br>6-8 PM Mice<br>7 PM Property           | 25<br>7 PM Christian Ed                                                             | 26                                                                          | 27<br>HAPPY THANKSGIVING !!<br>OFFICE CLOSED                              | 29                                                | 29<br>8 AM Cookie Mixing<br>9AM—10 PM Crafting<br>9:30 AM Yoga (Upstairs)          |