

Welcome! Whether you are worshipping with us in-person or virtually, we pray that you and your family are safe and healthy. We are blessed by your presence!



Visitors, Prayer Requests or to Update Information, please complete the card in the pew rack and drop it in the basket on the chancel rail when you leave.

Your Offering may be placed in the offering plate when you get a bulletin or in the basket by the chancel rail at the front of the church. We no longer pass the offering plate. Thank you for giving in support of the missions and ministries of St. Paul's.

Serving Today

Scripture Reader: Alan Ross
Greeter: Kathy Weller
Acolyte: Will Falstich
Tech: Shannon Simpson

Last Sunday In-person Attendance: 82
Virtual worship viewings: 76 (as of 8/3)
Giving: \$3147

BIRTHDAYS ~ this week

August 7: Betty Hampton, Linda Levengood, Michelle Walker, Katarina Dunning
August 13: Megan Kunsch

ANNIVERSARIES ~ this week

August 9: Jim & Carol Sterner
August 10: John & Dana Godfrey

Next Sunday: *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*
Message: *By Faith*
Texts: Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Hebrews 11:29-12:2*
Luke 12:49-59
**next Sunday's sermon text*



St. Paul's UCC, Amityville

1979 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, PA 19518

August 7, 2022

Ministers: The People of St. Paul's UCC
The Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson, Pastor
Martha Sitler, Minister of Music
Amy Schafer, Sexton
Marlene Dadey, Director of Christian Education/Office Manager
Emily Zimmerman, Director of Youth Ministry
Church Office 610-689-9364
Pastor Steven's cell - 610-858-0921
Pastor's e-mail - pastor@stpaulsuccamity.org
Church e-mail - office@stpaulsuccamity.org
Website: www.stpaulsuccamity.org

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Mission Statement

In its life and mission, St. Paul's UCC seeks to worship the triune God; proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; practice loving service toward the needy; embody God's reign of peace and justice; establish a Christian community of faith; and be a faithful member of the church universal.



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Amityville, Pennsylvania

August 7, 2022

9:30 A.M.

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost / Communion

* = Those who are able may stand

Prelude *Meditation on "O Waly Waly
I Sing the Mighty Power of God"* -arr. Curtis
-Hayes/Wagner

* Processional Hymn *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven* Hymnal #1

* Greeting The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Introit *I Want to Be Ready* -traditional Spiritual
**I want to be ready, I want to be ready
I want to be ready to walk in Jerusalem just like John
Walk in Jerusalem just like John.**

* The Solemn Declaration (from Luke 12:35-36) sung response: **Amen!**

* Call to Worship —based on Psalm 50:1, 3-4, 23

The Mighty One, God, the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

**Our God comes
and will not be silent;
a fire devours before him,
and around him a tempest rages.**

He summons the heavens above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:

**Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me,
and to the blameless I will show my salvation.**

* Call to Confession —based on Isaiah 1:16-17

* Silent Prayer

* Prayer of Confession (in unison) —based on Genesis 15:5; Hebrews 11:1, Luke 12:34, 40

**Holy God,
you promise us a life full of blessing,
but we do not always believe.
You incite us to hope, but we fall back into fear.**

**You urge us to give freely,
but we cling to what we have.
You call us to watch at all times for you,
but we grow lazy and self-absorbed.
Forgive us. Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts,
and keep us alert to the wonders you work
in the world every day.
For the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon —based on Isaiah 1:16-18

God is merciful and kind; though our sins are like
scarlet, they become like snow. Be at peace,
for your sins are washed clean by the goodness of God.
Thanks be to God!

* Affirmation *The Apostle's Creed* (inside hymnal cover)

* Prayer of the Day —based on Hebrews 11:1, 3

Special Music *I've Just Seen Jesus* Gaither
Solo by Cathy Harnak

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40*
After the readings: *The Word of God for the People of God...*

Thanks be to God!

Sermon *Keep Your Lamps Burning*

* Responsive Hymn *I Will Remember Thee* Hymnal #463

Prayers of the People response: *O God of hope, increase our faith.*
The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Invitation to the Offering —based on Luke 12:33a, 34; Psalm 50:23

* Doxology Hymnal #815

* Prayer of Dedication —based on Psalm 33:13; Genesis 15:5; Hebrews 11:14

Holy Communion (see insert)

* Recessional Hymn *What If It Were Today?* Hymnal #759

* Benediction & Threefold Amen —based on Luke 12:32-35, 40

Postlude *Fill His Courts with Praise* -Van Woert

ORDER for HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right for us to give thanks and praise.



Thanksgiving for the Work of God in Creation

Acclamation of Praise (The Sanctus) —based on Psalm 104, Genesis 11, Acts 2

. . . Save us Lord! We call upon your name:

(sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth,
Heaven and earth are full; are full of the majesty of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

Thanksgiving for the Work of Christ —based on John 14, 2 Corinthians 4, Luke 22

Memorial Acclamation

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Prayer for the Work of the Spirit —based on Acts 2, John 6, Romans 8, Luke 22

. . . Fill us with dreams . . . in the joy of your eternal realm.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty God, now and forever, Amen.**

Invitation to Share

Distribution of the Elements

† Please Note: you may request grape juice

† Please Note: at St. Paul's young people wait until they have completed Confirmation Class and made a public confession of their faith before they share in the sacrament of communion. Young people, may still come forward with their families to receive a special blessing.

Acclamation

—Revelation 5:12, NIV

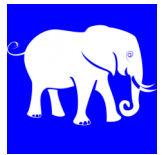
Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
**to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!**

ST. PAUL'S ACTIVITIES—this week

Sunday 8/7	Adult Sunday School Worship	8:30 AM 9:30 AM
Monday 8/8	Youth Ministry	7:00 PM
Tuesday 8/9	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM
Wednesday 8/10	Retired Teachers Newsletter	9:00 AM
Friday 8/12	Chess Club	7:00 PM

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Donations accepted August 8-12 to the Social Room—
Please be sure your items are in working order and clean.
We do not accept electronic equipment, such as computers,
printers or TVs. Again, *thank you* for all the wonderful things you
donate for these sales! The White Elephant Sale will be
Wednesday, August 17, Thursday, August 18, Friday, August 19
from 9 AM to 3 PM and Saturday, August 20 beginning at 8 AM.



PEACH FESTIVAL



Saturday, August 20 is our 40th Peach Festival. We can't say
annual since we had to skip a year due to the pandemic! Mark
your calendars and come out to help or enjoy the food, music and
fellowship. A schedule of help needed is published in the August
newsletter. The festival begins at 3 PM.

EVERYONE IS INVITED

We invite everyone to join us Sunday, August 21 for a special
service in the Chapel at 6 PM. This service will be a little different from
our traditional Sunday morning service. It will be
approximately 45 minutes in length and will
include music, musical instruments, scripture, and a
short message. We invite all ages from children to
the "elderly"! Children may bring their backpacks
for a blessing since this is the Sunday before the
first day of school. We hope you will join us.



CARING CLOSET

Items for the DB Schools are still being collected. You may place your items in the bin in the Library.

There is an urgent need for breakfast bars. We have learned that DB will no longer be providing free breakfast for students this fall.

There is also a need for ear buds and Ipad chargers. You can buy inexpensive ones at Five Below.



Other items on the list include individual serving containers of applesauce, fruit, or tuna.

Microwavable meals, backpacks, drawstring bags, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, hair brushes, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene products.

Please be sure the “use by date” extends into the winter months.

Trip to Israel January 17-26, 2023. We’ve just learned that Pastor Jim and St. Mark’s Lutheran Church is planning a trip to Israel next year with Pilgrim Tours. Cost per person is \$2,021.00 plus airfare, which may be around \$900. Pastor Steven has also been thinking of either joining a tour like this one or leading one if there are enough people from St. Paul’s interested. If this is something you might be interested (either joining St. Mark’s group or starting one of our own) please contact Pastor Steven. pastor@stpaulsuccamity.org or 610-858-0921. No commitment expected at this time; he’d just like to gauge the interest level.



STILL NEEDED!

Christian Ed is still looking for a couple of Sunday School leaders and/or assistants. Sunday School will begin again on September 11 and will meet during the worship hour (9:45). The children will be divided into two age groups. Our goal is to have eight teaching teams of two people per team. Two teams will be assigned to one Sunday each month. Helping with Sunday School is an educational and spiritual experience for everyone involved. So many leaders have said they learned so much about the Bible from teaching Sunday School. You don’t have to be a teacher to help with this important ministry. If you are interested please contact Marlene Dadey or join the staff meeting on Wednesday, August 17 at 6:30 PM to learn more.

SERMON TEXT

Luke 12:32-40

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

¹ Now **faith** is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.

³ **By faith** we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸ **By faith** Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ **By faith** he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ And **by faith** even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living **by faith** when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth.

¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.