



# “ The Epistle Pauline ”

St. Paul's Digital Newsletter

Volume 60, Number 4

April 2026

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.

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## March Consistory Highlights from Barry Kulakowsky

Consistory met on Thursday evening, March 12, 2026, beginning at 7:00 PM. in Room 8 due to a conflict with the Wednesday night Lenten Service. Kathy Weller shared a devotion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Total income for February: \$39,206 Total expenses for January : \$38,585 Surplus/(Deficit) \$+623

President Kulakowsky reported that the church will recognize and celebrate the 101 scouts from Troop 597 who have achieved the rank of Eagle.

**The Christian Education Committee** reminded us that VBS is scheduled for June 22 nd to June 26 th . Registration is now open.

**The Evangelism Committee** reported that all is ready for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th

**The HVAC Committee** will be sharing information about the Final Phases of the HVAC Project on Sunday, March 15 th, at the Special Congregational meeting.

**Turkey Supper** Plans are underway and will gear up the week of March 23 rd to March 28th . Supper will be March 28 th

Brenda Haas would like to resurrect the Mother's Day Brunch this year. She is looking for someone to serve as chairman to plan and organize the event.

Our next Consistory meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026.

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## Special Congregational Meeting Highlights

A Special Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, March 15 th . The purpose of the meeting was to share with the Congregation the reasoning behind and the proposal for completing the final phase of the HVAC Project (Air conditioning of the sanctuary, social room, and lower level of the chapel).

After much sharing of information, questions, and discussion, a motion to complete Phase 5 was presented and seconded. It had been previously decided that the vote would be done on a paper ballot. It passed 83 – YES: 30 – NO votes in favor of completion of Phase 5.

A second motion was made and seconded to create a Capital Campaign of \$150,000 to fund the completion of Phase 5. This motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

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## Why Do We Do What We Do during Holy Week and Easter?

Dear Church Family,

I have a challenge for you this Easter season: give two hours to God.

For the first hour, please join us for our Maundy Thursday service to take Holy Communion. As Jesus said, "do this in remembrance of me." For the second hour, I invite you to attend our "Drum and Nail" service, a unique and meaningful new tradition here at St. Paul's.

By participating in both, you will experience Easter Sunday in a whole new way—from the Upper Room to the Crucifixion and, ultimately, the Resurrection.

As your minister, I hope you and your family will accept this challenge to grow in faith and draw closer to God. Blessings, Rev. Don Epps



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## Prayer Vigil

There are still times available for those who would like to join our 24-hour Prayer Vigil that runs from 8:00 a.m. on Good Friday through 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 4.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Library, select an hour (or more) to pray or meditate on the loving sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. You are then welcome to pray in the Chapel – or in the privacy of your own home. Either way, please sign up so we know all the time slots are filled.

You will find this to be a very moving experience – a very meaningful way to prepare for the triumphant resurrection on Easter morning.

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## Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Community Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by St. Paul's UCC & Amity Fire Company will be held Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of St. Paul's.

All children of the community through age 10 are invited to participate. This is a rain or shine event.

Schedule:

11:00 Ages 0-2 on lower Chapel lawn by Pavilion

11:15 Ages 3-4 on upper Chapel lawn

11:30 Ages 5, 6 & 7 in cemetery by parking lot along Weavertown Road

11:45 Ages 8, 9 & 10 in cemetery corner of Old Airport Road/Route #662

Monetary donations for prizes and candy are always welcome and can be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Egg Hunt" and put in the collection plate on Sunday morning, or sent to the church office clearly marked "Egg Hunt".

Scout Pack 597 will once again be sponsoring a bake sale during the Egg Hunt.

Please contact any member of the Evangelism Committee with questions.

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## Zook's Meat Pie Fundraiser - Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid group is once again holding a fundraiser and this time we heard you. We will be taking orders for PIES. That's right but they aren't dessert pies but savory ones!

We will be taking orders for meat pies – sausage, chicken and beef pies - by Zook's Famous Homemade Pies during the month of April.

These savory Pies are filled with chunks of meat, potatoes, carrots and peas, all fresh cooked and added to homemade gravy. They are pre-baked and frozen for an easy dinner on a busy night. The pies are available in 2 sizes – 6 inch or 9 inch. The 6-inch sausage, chicken, or beef pie costs \$7 and the 9-inch sausage, chicken, or beef pie costs \$14.

If you are now worrying about what to serve for dessert that problem can be solved by ordering some Apple Dumplings or chocolate Whoopie Pies. Apple Dumplings come in 2 sizes, a single at the cost of \$3 or a Twin Pack at \$6. Whoopie pies are at a cost of \$9 for a pack of 6!

Members of the Ladies Aid group will be selling the pies and desserts during the month of April and will be out in the library every Sunday to take your orders. We are asking for payment at time of order.

Pickup will be on Friday, May 15 th form 3PM to 6PM in the downstairs kitchen.

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## Hoagies for a Good Cause

Bird Chapter #460 Order of Eastern Star is a charitable organization affiliated with the Masonic Fraternity, that supports numerous local charitable causes including Service Dogs, Cancer treatment, First Responders, MS programs, Veterans, and Shriners' Hospitals.

They also serve meals at Hope Rescue and made a generous donation to our Flood Relief program. In addition, the group awards annual scholarships to seniors recognized for their community service through four local high schools.

Eastern Star's major fundraiser supporting their work is their monthly hoagie sale held right here at St. Paul's on the third Tuesday of the month. Take your choice of 12" Italian or Ham and Cheese – with or without onions. Peppers (packed separately) are optional. The sandwiches are made fresh by Oliverio's and are \$10 each.

The next Hoagie date will be Tuesday, April 21st. Please call Anne McLain at 610-468-9196 or Lois Reinert at 610-587-0392 by Friday, April 17th to order. Then pick up your sandwiches in the Social Room downstairs by 9:00 a.m. on the following Tuesday. No need to plan lunch – and you are supporting a great cause.

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## Missions Update:

The Missions committee will be starting a collection of new socks and underwear for Fostering Hope. Both boy and girl, all sizes. There will be a bin in the library for your donations. We appreciate all your donations.

If you donate items for the Blessing Box please do NOT add canned or glass products or liquids. They have been freezing. We are attempting to "insulate" the box, but until that is complete, only "dry" items.

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## Bible Study on “The Chosen” Continues from Martha Sitler

Our Bible Study meets every Tuesday evening. Each week we will watch and discuss one episode from Season 3 of the popular streaming series on the life of Jesus and his followers, as well as its connections with Old Testament scripture.

Even if you missed the previous study on Season 2, join us in the Chapel from 7 to about 8:15 each Tuesday evening. All are welcome!

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## Christian Ed News from Marlene Dadey

**Easter Sunday** – There is no Sunday School for the children.

The Nursery will be open during worship. Confirmation will not meet.

All three Adult Sunday School classes will not meet.

**Confirmation** – We will prepare for the Confirmation Led Service during the month of April.

Rehearsal for the Confirmation Led Service will be Sunday, April 26 immediately following worship. Plan on the rehearsal to take until noon.

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## SPLASH News from Marlene Dadey

### Summer SPLASH

We are looking for those with hobbies or interests that could be shared with our students. The students enjoy learning about all kinds of things.

Last year Charlie Harley shared his hobby of metal detecting with the children. If you are interested in spending a little time with the children please contact Marlene Dadey.

### VBS News - Snowball Mountain Challenge – June 22-28

As happy as we are to be rid of the snow it looks like there is more to come in June! Yes, we have a winter VBS theme.

We invite children ages 3 (before September of 2025) through 5th grade to join us from 9 to Noon. Registration forms were emailed, are available in the Library or email [ss@stpaulsuccamity.org](mailto:ss@stpaulsuccamity.org).

Please extend the invitation to neighbors, family and friends. We will have lots of fun hearing Bible stories making crafts, playing outside, doing Science experiments, singing songs, and eating yummy snacks.

[VBS Help Needed](#) – We are still looking for an additional team leader (older age group) and team helpers, recreation team leader and helpers, Science leader and helpers, and decorators.

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## Scouting America News Troop 597 from Scott Weller

April 2026 News



We concluded March with another successful spaghetti supper! The Troop thanks everyone that came out and purchased a meal, baked goods, or donated to support us! Also, as we end March, we have scheduled a cleanup of the church grounds, along with our friends from the Cub Pack, in preparation for the annual Easter Egg hunt in early April. Be sure to stop by our bake sale table during the egg hunt and get some tasty treats for your Easter celebration.

A big congratulations to Gabriel Yergey and Zachary Gougler who passed their Eagle Board of Reviews in March. Gabe and Zach are Eagle Scouts #100 and #101 in Troop 597 which is a huge milestone to achieve as an organization and could not have been accomplished without the dedication of past and present leaders, committee members, and parents.

We still have several scouts working towards the final requirements needed to submit their paperwork so that number will continue to grow in the coming months! Keep an eye out for something to honor the Troop reaching the 100 Eagles Scout milestone.

As we look ahead to April and hopefully warmer weather, we have a packed schedule. We will hold four Eagle Court of Honor ceremonies to celebrate the achievements of our scouts who recently attained the rank of Eagle. We look forward to honoring these scouts and their families during these formal ceremonies: Luke Schafer, Gabe Wilson, Gideon Wilson, and Aidan Smoyer.

Assistant Scoutmaster Chad Geist will also be recognized for the completion of his Woodbadge training with a “beading” ceremony on April 19 th . Woodbadge is an advanced training program for adult leaders focused on enhancing leadership skills, support of their Troop, and their commitment to Scouting values.

April’s camping trip will be to the Army War College in Carlisle. Scouts will enjoy touring the military museum on site and learning about the history of multiple wars. They will also have

an opportunity to explore the grounds, including the trenches, helicopters, and tanks that are on display.

Mark your calendars for our second annual 5K walk/run to be held on May 16 th at the Amity Community Park. We aim to build on last year's inaugural event and continue growing this event every year. Look for signups and more details on our Facebook page in the coming weeks.

We have just recharted for our 97 th year in Amity Township and are extremely proud of the program that has been built with the help of our community and the support of our church family. If you, or any of your relatives, were past members of the Troop at any time, and you have any memorabilia or pictures you'd like to share please reach out to Scott Weller (smweller721@yahoo.com). We'd love to add pieces of Troop history to our display case at the church.

Our Troop is open to any youth, boy or girl, between the ages of 11 and 18 who wants to strengthen their leadership and life skills while having fun in the outdoors. Our leaders have extensive training and experience and are always looking to bring out the best in each youth member.

If your son or daughter is interested in joining Scouts, please contact us (Brian Welch - 610-698-5924) or stop during a Monday night meeting between 7-8pm. If you have a child in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade that is interested in joining the scouting program, our Cub Pack would love to have you.

Check out our Facebook pages for information and to see more of what we do. If you would like to help as an adult, we can always use another pair of hands so please reach out if you are interested!

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## Altar Flowers

If you would like to sponsor the altar flowers or a special bouquet, please contact the church office, [office@stpaulsuccamity.org](mailto:office@stpaulsuccamity.org), Altar flowers are \$67.50 and special bouquets start at \$50.

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## VBS 2026 Snowball Mountain Challenge from Marlene Dadey

VBS 2026 Snowball Mountain Challenge – Well February proved to be a month of COLD weather and snow. Now we are all ready for warm weather which means VBS!

VBS will be held June 22-26 from 9 AM to Noon each day.

Currently we are looking for staff members: team leaders, craft team members, snack team leader and members, recreation team leader and members, storyteller, photographer, music leader, tech helpers, and decorators.

Please contact Marlene Dadey at [ss@stpaulsuccamity.org](mailto:ss@stpaulsuccamity.org) if you are able to help. Registration information will be available later this month.

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## Decorating for VBS from Michele Ross

Do we wish it was June??? We sure do! Unfortunately, we're still in the deep freeze of winter. However, your VBS decorating team is planning for Snowball Mountain Challenge. It's easier to think about decorations when you look out the window!

Some items you can start saving. (We'll put a bin in the library):

- Any tags, brochures you get if you go skiing, snowboarding, tubing.
- Old white sheets
- Any large white plastic sheets (something that comes wrapped in a BIG plastic wrap)
- Plan on getting a BIGGER TV. Save that big TV box and the styrofoam packing.
- Any LARGE cardboard boxes (think appliances, furniture) or sheets of cardboard.
- Styrofoam packing (not peanuts) or large sheets of styrofoam.
- When and if winter ever ends, keep your winter gear ready to bring in for decor in June.
- We'll need a few skis, skates, snowboards, tubes.

We'll let you know when to bring them and what we need. Think Spring!

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## Enduring Harmony from Rev. Epps

"Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus." — Romans 15:5 (CSB)

I often share a playful greeting at our Turkey supper: "Welcome to St. Paul's; we have white elephants downstairs and a lot of turkeys upstairs!" I also enjoy introducing myself as "the new old guy here." While these jests depend on our familiarity with one another, it is these shared experiences that build trust and allow us to value the unique contributions each person brings to the table.

Harmony occurs when you sing a part different from the person next to you; you blend by being distinct at the same time. God designed us this way. As the Apostle Paul wrote in many different ways the same message. The key to getting along is recognizing that we are not all the same. Jesus chose disciples with diverse backgrounds and used those differences to harmonize them and change the world.

We are all unique, yet we serve the same God and Savior by the power of the same Holy Spirit. When people tell me, "We've never had anyone quite like you," my response is always: "Great! Let's harmonize."

Today, let us be the body of Christ—different, yet one in Him.

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## Would You Like to Join Our Church Family?

We have a saying at St. Paul's...there are no strangers, there are only those we haven't become friends with yet.

If you have been worshipping with us at St. Paul's and would like to become a member of our family, please reach out to Rev. Epps after the worship service for questions and answers about membership. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Kathy Weller at 610-842-3853 or email [facility@stpaulsuccamity.org](mailto:facility@stpaulsuccamity.org).

"I am the vine, you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I to you, you will produce plenty of fruit. But separated from me you won't be able to do anything." John 15:5

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### April Birthdays

April 3 Charles Honish  
April 4 John Bonslaver, Linda Breitenstein  
Cathy Harnak, Barry Naus  
April 5 Andrew Groller, John Groller  
April 7 Mitchell Schittler, Julian Sebastian  
April 9 Brenda Kunsch  
April 10 Toby Davis  
April 11 Robert Yanos, Jr.  
April 13 Priscilla Knerr  
April 14 Luke Casner  
April 15 Ruth Biles, Wendy Pflugler  
April 16 Rhonda Bernard, Steven Ring  
April 17 Axel Kopec  
April 18 Marlene Dadey, Gerald Fizz  
Judi Flickinger, Candy Shustack  
April 19 Dave Dunning  
April 21 Chad Everhar, Vivian Geckle  
Randy Walker  
April 24 Martha Sitler  
April 27 William Falstich, Carol Merkel,

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### April Anniversaries

April 8 Gerald & Beverly Breitenstein  
April 14 Keith & Allyson Fleischman  
April 18 Greg & Aimee Shank  
April 19 Richard & Janet Knauer  
April 20 Ron & Linda Curtis  
April 21 Robert & Wendy Pflugler  
April 24 Rob & Melissa Millard  
April 29 Keith & Tracy Berry

### April Greeters

April 5 Bruce DeLong  
April 12 Susan Lincoln  
April 19 Susan Newland  
April 26 Anita Zuber, Madison Fleischman

## Scripture Readers

April 5 – Anita Zuber                      April 12 – Billy Harrison  
April 19 – Bruce DeLong                 April 26 – Alex Falstich

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## Scripture Readings

April 5th	April 12th	April 19th
Easter Sunday	Second Sunday of Easter	Third Sunday of Easter
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31 Psalm 16	1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35 Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

### April 26th

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1:17-23    Luke 24:13-35    Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

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## Do you Have News or Articles to Share?

Please submit articles one week in advance to:

[Communications@stpaulsuccamity.org](mailto:Communications@stpaulsuccamity.org)

Thank- You! - The Communications Committee - Kay, Matt, Rob, Wendy, & Heidi

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## Do You Love a Parade? Shared from the Keystone Conference Newsletter

Dear Keystone Members and Friends –

I grew up in a family that loved parades. I've been fortunate to have seen in person two of the most popular holiday parades. I've been to the Rose Parade on New Year's Day in Pasadena, CA, and got to witness the incredible artistry of those floats to which seeing them on TV can't compare. I also got to see the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in NYC, but from an unusual vantage point. When we couldn't find a spot on the street, my brother took us to a conference room in his company's office building, and we watched the parade through the 25th floor windows! We were actually looking down upon the famous balloons of that parade.

By now, most everyone is familiar with the scholarship on the two parades of Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday. Many believe that the peasant parade of Jesus, the disciples, and

others was planned mockery and a counter-parade to the parade of power of Pontius Pilate and his Roman guards. The Romans were entering the city on the west side, Jesus and company on the east side.

This coming weekend in our country there will be two days of parades, if you will. The “No Kings” gatherings and marches will happen on Saturday and in many churches the Palm Sunday parade(s) will be remembered and in some even reenacted.

The parades this coming weekend can be compared to the tension of that first Palm Sunday in Jerusalem: Parades can be statements of power and/or protest. Sometimes, we need a 25th floor view to see the true scope and effectiveness of such gatherings. Jesus mocking Roman power in the occupied holy city of his faith made a statement that his power was not of this world. Pilate’s Parade, and many ruling-party parades since, filled with swords, weapons and shows of loyalty are statements of authority of this world.

Nearly 2000 years later, we may still love a parade, especially those with artistry, passion, or the power of community at their hearts. Other parades hit differently.

So, it makes me wonder in a decade or two how the two parade days of this coming weekend will be viewed in terms of their power? I suppose the participants and viewers will decide the answer to that question in time.

Rev. Dwight Hein  
Coordinator Leadership Development  
Keystone Conference UCC

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## [Other Kaystone Conference News](#) from the conference newsletter

["The Spirit of Religious and Civic Freedom in the Revolutionary Era." with Dr. Randall Zachman](#)

[Tuesdays, April 21, 28, and May 5, from 7-8:15 p.m. on Zoom.](#)

This three-week series will explore the ways the quest for religious freedom influenced the pursuit of civic freedom during the revolutionary era in the American colonies. We will begin by looking at the arguments for religious freedom in Roger Williams and William Penn, over against the involvement of the state in religious life during their times. We will then turn to the ways in which religious and civic freedom were seen to be inseparable in the sermons of Jonathan Mayhew and John Witherspoon, so that a nation cannot have one without the other.

We will conclude by hearing from the first four US presidents regarding their conviction that the constitutional project of civic freedom can only succeed if the American people remain both moral and religious, without the government sponsoring religion. Short selections of primary source readings will be provided for each session.

There is no registration fee, but you must register to receive the Zoom link for the series. This series will have suggested reading between sessions.

This series will be counted as 6 hours of Continuing Education for authorized ministers in the Keystone Conference.

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## The Suggestion Box!

What do you like? Dislikes? Want to see more of? Let us know.

eMail us at [Communications@stpaulsuccamity.org](mailto:Communications@stpaulsuccamity.org) or call Kay Nyman @ 610-212-1528

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## Online Giving & Donations

It's easy to give on any device ....

<https://stpaulsuccamity.churchcenter.com/giving>

Or Scan the QR Code



You may also go to our website [www.stpaulsuccamity.org](http://www.stpaulsuccamity.org) and click on "Giving" at the top. An easy way to be sure your offerings are received monthly is to enroll in "automated giving."

At the bottom of the website you can access a form to be completed and mailed to the attention of our financial secretary under "[Quick Links Automated Giving Enrollment Form.](#)"

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To read the weekly word scan the QR Code here.



This edition of the monthly newsletter was prepared by Kay Nyman

**May Newsletter Deadline: Saturday, April 25, 2026.**

[Click Here to Read More on our Website](#)

St. Paul's UCC Amityville  
1979 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, PA 19518  
eMail: [office@stpaulsuccamity.org](mailto:office@stpaulsuccamity.org)  
Office Phone: 610-689-9364