



Saint Paul's Possibilities

September 18, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Do you ever procrastinate?

Now, some of you might say with absolute confidence, “No, never. When something needs doing, I just do it.” To that, I say: congratulations! But whether you are a seasoned procrastinator or someone who tackles things right away, stay with me for a moment, because I want to ask a question we can all think about. “What is it that actually causes us to delay?”

Often, it isn't simple laziness. It happens when a task before us feels so large, or the outcome so distant, that we cannot figure out how what we are doing today will ever get us to where we need to be. When we cannot see the whole path, we freeze.

Barbara Wagner used to tell me all the time, “The only way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time.” I would chuckle and wonder, ‘How do I even know if I like elephant?’ But I knew what she meant: when facing a monumental task, you don’t need to solve everything all at once. You simply do the thing right in front of you in that moment, trusting that those small, faithful actions will eventually carry you to the finish line.

We see this everywhere in life. A student staring at a thick textbook at the beginning of the school year can feel completely overwhelmed—until they realize they only have to take it one chapter at a time. Someone whose dream is to own a home faces years of budgeting, patience, and hard work, moving toward that distant goal one paycheck and one decision at a time. I think about my own journey to ordination—a path twenty-five years in the making. If I had tried to see and manage all twenty-five years at the beginning, it would have felt impossible. But step by faithful step, God brought me through.

I've been thinking about this a lot lately as we look around @ The Farm and envision moving the church into the barn. At times, it can feel like a daunting undertaking, and it's easy to wonder how we will ever get there. But we don't give up. We do the work right in front of us each day, knowing that “God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

Scripture constantly reminds us that faith is about trusting God with what lies ahead while we focus on the step right before us. In Psalm 119:105, we read, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” When those words were written, people carried small clay oil lamps that cast just enough light to illuminate a few feet in front of them—enough to see where to place their very next step, but not enough to reveal the road miles ahead.

Jesus offered the very same assurance in the Sermon on the Mount: “Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes” (Matthew 6:34). And as Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us in the midst of an overwhelming struggle for justice, “Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”

So whatever task, transition, or uncertainty is tempting you to hesitate today, here is my prayer for you: that you will find the courage to take the first step, and then the next. You don't have to see the entire staircase to

Upcoming Worship

September 20 ~ 17th Sunday after Pentecost
“Let's Be Fair Here!”

Jonah 3:10-4:11; Matthew 20:1-16

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Michelle Dressler

Acolyte: Emerson Council

Flower Sponsor: Roxann Deitrick

Breakfast Sponsors: The Arnold Family

Kitchen: Tina

Offering Counters: E. Fisher D. Spear

September 27 ~ 18th Sunday after Pentecost
“Unshaken”

Matthew 21:23-32

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Morgan Richard

Acolyte: Kyra Richard

Flower Sponsor: Foust, Sholley, Mathias

Breakfast Sponsors: Cree, Lemmerman, Snyder

Kitchen: Kathy

Offering Counters: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

September Usher/Greeters: Earl & Terri Fisher,
Sue Mahon, Carol Oberlin, Amy Mahon, Steve Brown,
Bob Gift, George Mull, Shelly Sholley

keep moving forward. God will not call us to a work without equipping us for it, and God holds each of our steps in the palm of loving grace. Let us continue the good and faithful work of this day together.

Let us continue to invite others to join us on this journey by loving our neighbors, helping wherever we can, and being the church in action—the church Jesus continually shows us how to be. We may not know all that God has planned for us, but we do not need to know the whole path to move forward with faith, hope, and joyful expectation. Amen.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Opportunities to Serve our Neighbors. Sign up! Sign up for Jesus! Well, it may not be quite meeting Jesus face-to-face—though our prayer is always that you meet Jesus in everyone you encounter, and that everyone you meet sees Christ in you! These upcoming opportunities are a wonderful way to enjoy fellowship, build community, and share God's love as we care for our neighbors.

Walk Against Hunger – On Sunday, October 4 (World Communion Sunday), the Lewisburg Council of Churches will host the annual Walk Against Hunger, and Saint Paul's is excited to form a walking team once again. There are two scenic walking routes through downtown Lewisburg (one mile and three miles). We will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Borough parking lot beside Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, between 3rd and 4th Streets downtown to step off together. Sponsor sheets will be passed around during worship, so please sign up, invite friends and family to walk with you, and help raise awareness and support. Best of all, 100% of all money raised remains local, benefiting area food pantries—including our own Saint Paul's Food Pantry!

Help Stock the Food Pantry – Speaking of food pantries, our own shelves are starting to run low. Thanks to your generosity, we gathered enough food in the spring to keep our pantry stocked through the summer. As we move into autumn, the heavier needs across our community are showing on our shelves. If you are able to pick up a few extra cans of soup or non-perishable items during your weekly grocery run, please drop them in the little red wagon on Sunday mornings. It is a simple, meaningful way to ensure our neighbors have food on their tables.

Fresh Express – There is always a place for you on the Fresh Express team! On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, volunteers gather beginning at 1:00 p.m. to receive, sort, and pack groceries for approximately 230 to 250 neighbors. It takes about two dozen volunteers to make this ministry run smoothly. Whether you can lend a hand for one hour, two hours, or the whole afternoon, your help makes a big difference. Everything is wrapped up by 5:00 p.m. Come join the team and share in the blessing!

Community Meal – On the fourth Monday of every month, a team from Saint Paul's helps prepare and package meals for our neighbors. The cooking takes place at St. John's UCC on Buffalo Road, led by Teri Kremer. Volunteers gather for a few hours, from 1 to 4 p.m. to prep, cook, and package nutritious meals that are frozen and distributed to our most vulnerable neighbors. If you would like to help with cooking or packaging, please see Teri Kremer to learn more and to sign up.



Responding to Housing and Heating Needs – While much of our hands-on mission work centers around food, we are also working alongside community partners to address two urgent and growing challenges: housing and winter heating fuel.

Finding and maintaining safe shelter has become increasingly difficult. With local rents rising and initial move-in costs—such as first month's rent, security deposits, and utility deposits—often totaling several thousand dollars, getting into an apartment can be an overwhelming barrier for individuals and families on entry-level incomes. When permanent housing isn't immediately available, temporary hotel stays quickly exhaust savings. At the same time, public assistance programs face tighter funding constraints, and local fuel oil prices (currently averaging around \$5.50 per gallon) mean heating costs this winter will place a heavy strain on many households.

We share this not to cause alarm, but to keep you informed about where the needs are greatest and how we can respond with compassion and hope. Saint Paul's is committed to doing all we can with what we have—faithfully maintaining our ministries, keeping our doors open, and collaborating with neighboring churches and community partners to provide warmth, dignity, and care for our brothers and sisters in the season ahead.

A Word of Thanks – Bottom line: THANK YOU! What you do as a faith community is truly amazing. Through every volunteer hour, every can of soup, every prayer, and every warm welcome, you are being the church in action. God provides for all those who provide for God's people. Thank you for helping in every way you can.

Now for Some Upcoming Fellowship Opportunities!

Hayride and Chicken Barbecue – Service and fellowship go hand-in-hand, and we have a fantastic gatherings just around the corner! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for our Annual Hayride and Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, October 10, beginning at 4 p.m. at Northhill Orchard in Winfield. We will gather for an afternoon of wonderful fall fun:

- Chicken barbecue, hotdog roasting, and s'mores around the campfire
- Scenic hayrides through the orchard and flower fields
- Visits to the pumpkin patch and feeding the animals
- Games and activities for children of all ages

Celebrations 

Happy Birthday to ...

Terri Fisher - 9/18

Morgan Richard - 9/18

Elliana Rupert - 9/18

Crystal Reid - 9/23

Dustin Shoemaker - 9/26

Joan Weaver - 9/27

Happy Anniversary to ...

Thomas & Peggy Rubillo - 9/20

Jimmy & Donna Spear - 9/27

It is always a joyful day of connection and laughter. Sign up today and come celebrate the season with us!

The Next Day: Blessing of the Animals and Family Night – And the fun doesn't stop there! On Sunday, October 11, we continue our celebration of community and connection with two wonderful events. Join us at 4:00 p.m. in the meadow for our Blessing of the Animals. Bring your beloved pets to receive a blessing as we give thanks for the creatures who bring joy and companionship to our lives. (Pets welcome—just leave the snakes and spiders at home!)

Then, at 5:00 p.m., we gather for the first **Family Night** of the season with a potluck dinner followed by karaoke! Whether you have the voice of an angel or prefer to cheer from the sidelines, everyone is welcome. This is a night of laughter, connection, and pure fun for families of every age. Come as you are, bring a dish to share, and prepare for an evening of joy and togetherness. We can't wait to see you there!

Monstrous Love Sunday – Sunday, October 25, 1:30–3:30 p.m., in the Barn parking lot. What ways can you help show monstrous-sized love? Join us for our annual Monstrous Love celebration—a joyful gathering open to all our neighbors and friends! We'll share free hot dogs, popcorn, and cider as we come together in the spirit of fun, fellowship, and faith. Dress up in costume as you are able, and plan to spend a great Sunday afternoon with us. We need your help! Please sign up on the sign-up bar to provide decorated trunks, treats, or both. Every contribution makes this celebration possible and helps us extend love and welcome to our entire community. We hope to see you there!

On the Journey Together

Sundays @ The Farm. At 9 a.m. our coffee is brewing, and the nursery and sensory rooms are staffed and open. **Faith Connections** classes for all ages run from 9 to 10 a.m. From 10 a.m. to 10:25, please enjoy breakfast, coffee, and fellowship then worship begins at 10:30. Following the "Time with Our Children," during worship, kiddos aged 3 to 2nd grade head back to the classroom for "**Children's Church**" and return to worship following Pastor Tim's sermon. On the first Sunday of each month, we celebrate **Holy Communion** together. And, monthly on the 2nd Sunday, we enjoy **Family Night** beginning at 5 p.m. (First one is October 11) On the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together.

Music @ The Farm. Our **Chancel Choir**, directed by Patty Wagner with Sharon Styer, pianist, rehearses each Sunday morning from 9 to 10. Our choir averages 25+ singers and there's always room for more! We also have a **Hand Bell Choir** which rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 and plays for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The **Children's Choir** practices from 9:45 to 10:05 and bless our worship time once a month with their selections.

Weekdays @ The Farm. Each Monday at 10 a.m. a group gathers for **Monday Morning Reflections**, a relaxing time with Pastor Tim to dig deeper into the scripture from our Sunday service. On Wednesdays is **Lunch with the Pastor** from 11:30 to 1:00. Pick up lunch at the Farmer's Market across the bridge from the farm or bring your own and join Pastor Tim. Then on Wednesday evenings, we offer **Wednesday Evening Interactive**, a seasonal book/bible study (starting 9/9). On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month is **Friends Who Breakfast**, a popular time to gather to catch up over conversation and breakfast at Street of Shops (9:45) on the 1st Wednesday and Silver Moon Restaurant (9:30) on the 3rd Wednesday. On the 4th Friday of each month, you can find a Saint Paul's group

gathering at Union Cellars Winery for **Word, Wine, and Wisdom**, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Always a fun time as Pastor Tim tosses out a bible word to discuss with laughter and love.

Stewardship

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34) Giving thanks for the time, talents, and resources shared here.

Gifts & Offerings ~ 9/13/26

Attendance: 161 (8 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 1,407

Virtual Reach: 7,350

Christian Education: 37

Plate Giving: 2,669.00

Loose Plate: 416.00

Online Giving: 1,826.66

Operational Total: 4,911.66

Restricted Giving: 300.00

Total Giving: 5,211.66

Serving @ The Farm.

Mission and Outreach is an integral part of us "being the church" at Saint Paul's. On the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month, we offer a **Fresh Express Food Distribution** in partnership with the Central PA Food Bank. Volunteers join us from 1 to 5 p.m. at Grace Place @ The Farm as we

receive, sort, and distribute fresh food and groceries to our neighbors. All are welcome as we have a wonderful time serving together. Next distributions are September 24 and October 8. We also participate in **Community Harvest**, a monthly meal program in conjunction with Bucknell's Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research. We cook on the 4th Monday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at St. John's UCC and assist on select months with monthly distribution there on the 3rd Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Our next cooking date is Monday, September 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. See Terri Kremer with questions. Saint Paul's also has a "Little Red Wagon" which you will find on the porch at the entrance to our sanctuary. This is where you can drop off shelf-stable food items to help keep our emergency food pantry stocked. As well, if you wish to donate grocery or gas gift cards to help our neighbors in need, you may drop those in the offering plate during worship. **The current needs for our emergency food pantry are: cans of soup, boxes of mac and cheese, and bottles of juice.**



Going on its 6th year, "Friends Who Breakfast" is a Fellowship Staple at Saint Paul's. Here's the group that gathered this past Wednesday at Silver Moon Restaurant to talk, laugh, catch up, and fill their bellies and souls. Come anytime! You are welcome!