



Saint Paul's Possibilities

July 25, 2025

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

We are entering the last week of Christmas in July and the inundation of Christmas movies on the Hallmark Channel. Now, before you say anything, I do enjoy them. And this is about substance more than just romance. Recently, I saw one of the movies where one character was upset with another character because she had not decorated for Christmas. After some harsh words and expressions of anger and disappointment, the one upset discovered that the one who had not decorated had a very valid reason: she had lost her father recently and Christmas decorating had been their "thing." The character that complained so much felt horrible when someone stopped her and pointed it out. She apologized to the other character and said, "Sometimes, I just can't see past my own wants, needs and expectations. I had no idea about your father."

What a great message. Yes, the romantic interests still connected in the end, but the message was more about listening for the sake of hearing and understanding. The message was about grace, to know when to control your own tongue and that not everyone is in the same place as you, so, withholding judgement is typically the best policy. Above all, the lesson was "listen."

Recently, I have had several people come to see me. And what they needed was not my opinion--but to listen and listen carefully. It seems we have a human tendency to formulate opinions easily and not always listen fully for understanding.

In the text from I Kings 19, there is the story of Elijah running for his life and receiving a message to go up on the mountain and wait to hear the voice of God with instructions. We pick up the story at verse 11.

"Go out and stand at the mountain before the Lord. The Lord is passing by." A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the Lord. But the Lord wasn't in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave's entrance. A voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

Elijah had himself so wrapped up in what he was experiencing that he couldn't hear the voice of God, couldn't understand what God was calling him to do, how God would provide and offer protection if he would but listen. And God's voice came to him in a way he was not expecting.

Who would have thought there was a connection between a Hallmark Christmas movie and a Hebrew Testament lesson to listen? Get out of your own space, your own head, your own judgment and thoughts and listen.

I'm afraid we are all too busy in our own heads--with our own thoughts about what others should be doing, how others should be reacting--to listen closely to one another. Don't rush to judgment, don't think you know when you may not fully understand. God had a task for Elijah but until he listened fully, he couldn't even hear God's voice.

What about you? Do you listen fully for understanding before speaking, or do you shut down because you think you know what is being said already and you formulate your own opinion before taking time to fully understand another person's reasoning? Or understand the statement or question fully? And maybe this is why active stillness and listening are such important parts of our faith. Why don't you try it and see how your relationships improve? I believe we all have room to grow in this area and as followers of Christ, we can understand this practice may bring us closer to God. Put on your listening ears and let's learn and grow together.

Join Us in Prayer for

Linda Beaver
Gloria Brandt
Brasher/Thorn Family
Gary Chambers
Nicole & Dale Cuer
The Engle Family
The Faust Family
Greyson Greenawalt
Celeste Hampton
John "Tad" Hampton
Al & Ruth Henry
Pat Korizno
Kathy Lahr
Gloria Lehman
Katy Mahon
Elsie Pardoe
Eileen Prowant
Mary Renninger
Canaan Robinson
Savanah Spacil
Ralph Ritter
Chuck Schworer
Gary Smith
Tommy Ward
Russ & Donna Wynn

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

And the Golden Scoop(s) Go To... With nine homemade ice cream flavors to sample, more than 120 grilled hot dogs to consume, pasta salads and picnic fixins' to share, we celebrated our 3rd Annual Freeze-off here @ The Farm in style this past Sunday!

Seventy-six people tasted and voted in the ice cream freeze-off this year after tasting: Banana Cream Pie, Berger's Vanilla Bean, Peanut Butter, Peanut Butter Cookie Dough, Peanut Butter Monster Cookie, Lemon Blueberry, (PB) Mint Chocolate Chip, and Boston Cream Pie. The votes are in and tabulated and the winners, both with 16 votes each are: Carol Snyder's Banana Cream Pie and Laura Weisler's Berger's Vanilla Bean! One discerning taster commented "I loved the Peanut Butter, but that Vanilla Base for the Berger Vanilla Bean was perfect." We congratulate this year's winners and thank all our participants! All the voting was very close!

We look forward to next year's 4th Annual Freeze-Off on Sunday, July 19! Stay tuned for some great new additions including an ice cream Sunday bar for the kids and who knows what new flavors we may experience! Thank you to all the participants and to all the tasters too!



Four Years and \$10,538! Would you help us thank Earl Fisher, Amy Mahon, Lisa Bernard, Shelly Sholley and a host of others for helping support Go Greg (Fleck) over the years? It was reported this week that Greg has raised \$34,000 in the past ten years for Go Greg/Go Joe in support of St. Joseph's Center Wilkes Barre. St. Joe's is a place that offers support and training for mentally and physically disabled children and adults. It has been near and dear to Greg's heart and thus four years ago, when we met Greg, it became near and dear to our hearts. So, from the early days of basket raffles and tricycle rides, to running laps, and running on the trail, to bell ringing and visits from "Cousin Contessa," Saint Paul's, led by Earl Fisher and its members and friends have raised \$10,538 for Greg's \$34,000 efforts. It is with special thanks to Earl and all his efforts and reminders and all who have come out to events after events that we get to say, thank you! Thank you for all you have done and all you do to be the church in amazing ways!



August... A Time for Sun, Fun, and Serving our Neighbors...

"Take Me Out to the Ballgame" has become an annual tradition for Saint Paul's and it is two weeks away! On *Sunday, August 10*, we will depart the Farm at 3 p.m. for a 4:05 p.m. first pitch at the historic Bowman Field, Williamsport. This year we go for fun, fellowship, to cheer on our Crosscutters and celebrate Boomers Birthday! The cost of the event is "free" and all ages are invited to attend. It's always a fun evening out at the ballpark for kids of every age from 1 to 100.

Let's Make a Splash with another great August tradition! Our Back-to-School Chicken Barbeque and Swim, hosted at the home of the Gill Family (169 Woodridge Lane, Northumberland). With several school systems going back to school later that next week, we take a minute to celebrate summer with this annual event, *Saturday afternoon, August 16, starting at 4 p.m.* You are invited to bring a side dish to share, your bathing suit, a lawn chair and be prepared for an evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors. As needs grow, so does our need for volunteers, especially as kids return to school schedules. Our *Fresh Express* delivery dates for August are Thursday, August 14, and Thursday, August 28. If you have an hour or two or more, we gather beginning at 1 p.m. and wrap up by 5 p.m. All hands and ages are welcome.

Additionally, there are other opportunities for missions help here in the state, in Tioga county. Help is needed in Tioga County in response to hurricane Debbie to rebuild after the devastation including clean-up work along the creeks, rebuild houses including drywall, painting and landscaping. For more information check in with Pastor Tim. Housing is available. Participants must be 18 years old and have a valid PSP background check and the PA Child Abuse History Clearance.

Football Friday Nights are back! Join your faith family under the Friday night lights starting August 22 when the local High School Football Season kicks off. You can find Elias Franciscus in his senior year of marching band with Milton High School Panthers as he wows the fans on percussion, or you may find Ryan Arnold hitting hard for the Lewisburg Green Dragons and a host of our faith families in the stands and on the sidelines of the Mifflinburg games this season. So come, join your faith community as we join the broader communities under the Friday night lights for the 2025 season.

Date – 8/22 7 p.m.	Date – 8/29 7 p.m.
Mifflinburg vs. Loyalsock	Mifflinburg @ Danville
Milton vs. Shikellamy	Milton vs. Montoursville
Lewisburg @ Line Mountain	Lewisburg vs. Shikellamy



Celebrations

Happy Birthday ...

July 25 – Bill Gill
July 26 – Mike Haven
July 26 – Al Henry
July 27 – Justin Kozick
July 28 – Bryleigh Gill
July 28 – McNeil Parker
July 31 – Scott Baylor
July 31 – Thomas Wagner



Happy Anniversary ...

July 25 – Laurie & Kris Anderson
July 26 – Mallory & Brent Sample
Aug 3 – Autumn & Drew Faust



On the Journey

Sunday Mornings @ The Farm

- ~ Nursery & Sensory Rooms Open 10:15 a.m.
- ~ Sunday School returns August 31
- ~ Worship 10:30 a.m.
- ~ Children's Church (ages 3 to 2nd grade)
- ~ Breakfast returns August 31
- ~ First Sunday Communion

Music Rehearsals @ The Farm

- ~ Bell Choir Rehearsal returns September 3
- ~ Chancel Choir Rehearsal returns August 31
- ~ Children's Choir Practice returns September 7

Christian Formation @ The Farm

- ~ Second Sunday Connections 5 to 6:45 p.m.
Join us on second Sunday evenings for dinner, lessons, and crafts for all ages.
- ~ Monday Morning Reflections 11:30 a.m.
Gather with Pastor Tim and dig a bit deeper into the week's texts.
- ~ Wednesday Evening Interactive 6:30 p.m.
Returns September 3.
- ~ Confirmation Class every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5 p.m. exploring our faith through class and field trips.

Fellowship @ The Farm

- ~ Wednesday Lunch with Pastor Tim on the porch, 11:30-1:00 a.m.
- ~ Friends Who Breakfast
8/6 Street of Shops Restaurant, 9:45 a.m.
- ~ 4th Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Union Cellars, 7/25, 8/22

Serving @ The Farm Mission & Outreach

- ~ Fresh Express 2nd & 4th Thursdays 1-5 p.m.
8/14, 8/28
- ~ Harvest Meal 4th Mondays @ St. Andrews, Milton 1-5 p.m. Next date TBA
- ~ Emergency Food Pantry is always available @ Grace Place (little red wagon drop off)
This week's "Little Red Wagon" needs are:
peanut butter, jelly, soup, apple sauce, shelf stable milk, canned vegetables, Chef Boyardee canned meals, and grocery gift cards.



Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings July 20, 2025

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

Attendance: 114 (5 visitors)

Attendance on LIVE: 807 Virtual Reach: 3,630

Christian Education: 17

Plate Giving	\$ 2,077.00
Loose Plate	\$ 228.00
Online Giving	\$ 822.94
Operational Total	\$ 3,127.94
Restricted Giving	\$ 820.00
Total Giving	\$ 3,947.94

Upcoming Worship

July 27, 2025 ~ 7th Sunday after Pentecost

"A Master Class"

Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 11:1-13

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf

Lector: Rhonda Newton Acolyte: Cato Kazibwe

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: E. Fisher, D. Spear

August 3, 2025 ~ 8th Sunday after Pentecost

"Deep Pockets Jesus"

Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Merle Kay Englehart Acolyte: Lillie Franciscus

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Communion Assistants: Judy Albright, Barb Wagner,
Donna & Gary Bennett

Flower Sponsor: Terri Kremer

Offering Counter: E. Fisher, D. Spear

August Usher/Greeters: Bill & Lisa Bernard,

Joanna Johnson, Louise Litzy, Reba Rohrer, Chris Warner, Eric Wagner, Dave Muffley, Kim Ritter

Not able to be here in person on Sunday morning? Join us LIVE on Facebook and YouTube. Connect with us online at: [spuccfarm.org](https://www.spuccfarm.org) and follow us on Facebook.



Saint Paul's @ The Farm
A United Church of Christ Community

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