



Saint Paul's Possibilities

July 17, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Family,

I recently saw a poetic offering that spurred my own poetic thoughts about this place we call home. There's something special about it to so many of us. This very thought, that this is a sacred space of welcome for all, because of us all, fills my heart and feeds my soul.

The poetic reflection I read this week that says: "In English we say, "I love every version of you." And in poetry it offered a beautiful, detailed account of what that every version of you may look like.

*"I don't just stay for your sunlight,
I sit beside your storms, too.
Every version of you finds a home in me,
You don't have to be perfect to be loved –
I choose you, in every form you come in."*

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Mark Covert
Chip Eschbach
Patti Faux
Rebecca Foote
Sharon Foust
Tucker Franciscus
Ellie Guerrero
Robin Huffman
William Lloyd
Katy Mahon
Chuck Schworer
Amanda Unzueta
Tommy Ward
Don Warner

After reading it I was inspired and so I wrote my own understanding of what I believe we are creating here.

*You are welcome here when you are in good space, and
you are especially welcome here when you don't feel perfectly who you want to be or
you are having what you deem as an "off day" or
even if you feel downright rotten.*

*No matter the version of you, you are right now,
you are welcomed and loved here.
And what we are trying to say is, that includes not being perfect.
We choose you in every form you come in.
Simply put, we choose you to welcome and love.*

Living this, not the words, but in living out this very welcome, that's what touches my heart and feeds my soul, that's what makes my soul long for others to know this love and welcome. All others. Anyone searching. It's who I believe us to be.

As a part of the Cottage Meetings, we ask members and friends, how did you get here and without fail for anyone here less than 10 years it's been by word of mouth and hearing about the work of this church in the community. The second thing they say is how much love they felt walking through the doors of the church. Just walking through the doors. Let that sink in.

So, I write this week with a grateful heart. Yes, we are thankful for all we get to do and all the ways we get to do it. Fresh Express, Cottage Meetings, Warming Shelters, Cooling Shelters, Community service through partnership with Bucknell's Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning and Research, helping our housing insecure neighbors have a safe place to lay their heads and hungry families having food when they need it. And this welcome that extends to all—it all matters. Because this is God's house and all are welcome here.

Because this is what we learn over and over, learning: the real work happens when we live this welcome, not just proclaim it. When someone walks through our doors and feels, immediately, that every version of them is loved and chosen.

That's the story people are telling. That's why they come back. That's why they bring others.

So, my prayer this week is simple: Keep choosing people. Keep showing up. Keep being home to those still searching for one. That's how the Kingdom of God grows.

Peace & Blessings, Pastor Tim

The Farm Report



The Scott & Tracy Baylor Pavilion: A Community Gathers. Two weeks ago, we asked a simple question: Would you sponsor a picnic table in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one? The answer was overwhelming. Within days, seven tables were sponsored. The following week, another seven tables—plus additional gifts—came pouring in.

Today, we stand in the middle of something beautiful that our community built together.

What We've Created. Fourteen picnic tables. Umbrellas and stands for covered seating—indoors and out. Café lights strung overhead. An expanded meadow. A firepit. Horseshoe pits. Recreational games and wide-open space for families to gather, laugh, and belong.

Each table carries a story. A loved one remembered. A life celebrated. A moment of joy honored in a place where joy will happen again and again, families will gather and we will join our hearts and voices in fellowship. *Please take a moment to read the dedications for each table displayed in the pavilion.*

This beautiful space bears the name of Scott and Tracy Baylor—a testament to their long-time care and nurture of this farm, their vision, and their commitment to our community and the broader community.

Join Us Sunday. When we dedicate this space together. We'll share our first of many picnic lunches beneath these lights, around these tables, in this meadow that belongs to all of us.

This isn't just a building project. It's holy ground where memories live and new memories are being made right now.

Come celebrate what we've built. Come remember. Come gather. Come belong.

If you would still like to contribute, we will be purchasing two children's picnic tables (\$110 each) and 4-8 Adirondak chairs for the meadow (\$100 each). Thank you for all you do in support of gathering for the community.

Welcome Home: New Member Sunday, August 30. You may walk through our doors as a visitor. After that, you'll always be family. And we mean it. So why do we offer membership in this faith community?

Here's the beautiful part: it doesn't change who you are. It simply confirms what we already know—that you belong here, that you're committed to this faith community, and that we're committed to you.

Membership offers you a voice in our church's decisions. It means you can vote on official church business. But it doesn't come with extra expectations or requirements. We're all in this together, as family members, not as a hierarchy.

Why Welcome New Members? When you choose membership, you're sending a message—to us and to yourself. You're saying: I'm here. I'm committed. I want to support this place and this people with my time, my talents, and my resources. That matters. It deepens our community. It strengthens our mission.

Join Us Sunday, August 30. If you've been thinking about membership, or if you know someone ready to take this step, this is your Sunday. We'll celebrate together as new members join our faith family officially.

Because that's what you are—family. Welcome home.

For more information or to share your intention, please reach out to Pastor Tim.

Upcoming Worship

July 19 ~ 8th Sunday after Pentecost

"Ain't No Mountain High Enough"

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: McNeil Parker

Acolyte: Nelle Parker

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counters: S. Brown, D. Spear

July 26 ~ 9th Sunday after Pentecost

"For Once in My Life"

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: Kate Schaeffer

Acolyte: Rhett Sample

Flower Sponsor: Frank Wetzell

Counters: E. Fisher, D. Spear

July Usher/Greeters: Don & Peggy Emory, Amy Mahon, Chris & Jen Arnold,
Gary & Donna Bennett, Sue Mahon, Drew Faust

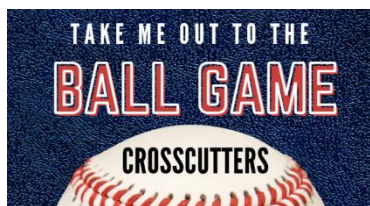
A Weekend to Celebrate Peace. Mark your calendars—something special is coming to The Farm! August 28-30 will be a weekend to remember, filled with music, faith, community and the celebration of peace.

Friday, August 28 | Wine, Word & Wisdom - Join us for an intimate evening of conversation, reflection, and fellowship as we prepare our hearts for the weekend ahead.

Saturday, August 29 | Music on the Porch for Peace - We're joining a global movement! Music on the Porch is an international celebration reviving a tradition when porch music was a cherished weekly Sunday afternoon ritual. This year, we'll gather to play music together—not just for the joy of it, but as a faith community standing up for world peace. We'll have special locally famous musical guests, and we'll also dedicate our new Peace Pole, a beautiful symbol of our commitment to peace in our congregation and our world.

Sunday, August 30 | New Members Sunday & Pastor Tim's Ordination Celebration - At 10:30 a.m., we celebrate new members joining our faith family during worship. Then, at 3 p.m., we gather for a special service celebrating Pastor Tim's Full Ordination into the United Church of Christ, followed by a reception of gratitude and joy.

Everyone is invited. Whether you're a longtime member or visiting for the first time, there's a place for you, always. Come celebrate peace, music, community, and the faithful leadership that guides us all. We hope to see you here @ The Farm.



Take Me Out to the Ballgame! August 2 at 4:05 p.m., our church family is heading to Williamsport to watch the Crosscutters take on the Trenton Thunder. If this is your first year hearing about this, let us tell you—it's one of our favorite traditions. ***Here's What Makes It Special:*** Each year, the church purchases a block of tickets from our community events fund, making it affordable for families to join us. Whether you're a die-hard baseball fan or just looking for a fun summer evening with your church family,

this outing has something for everyone. The Cross Cutters are having an amazing season—they just finished the first half as #1 in their division! So, bring your appetite, bring your cheers, and come celebrate a great team and great community. ***How to Join:*** It is free! Tickets are already purchased. We're organizing a carpool leaving the church at 2:45 p.m. (plenty of time to grab snacks and settle in before first pitch). Want to come along? Contact the church office or sign up this Sunday. Let's make it a night to remember.

Honor Someone Special with Flowers. Would you like to sponsor flowers for worship in honor, memory, or celebration of someone special? We have several weekends open throughout the remainder of summer and fall. It's a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a milestone, or simply brighten our worship space. To sponsor flowers: Visit our website and click the "Sign-up" link near the bottom of our website homepage or call the church office. We'll order the flowers for you, and your honorarium will be placed in the weekly bulletin.



Before the First Bell Rings! Yes, it's time to think ahead—school starts the week of August 24. But before the rush begins, we're gathering for our annual Back-to-School Chicken Barbecue & Swim.

- Saturday, August 15 at 4 p.m.
- At the home of the Gill family

Here's What This Tradition Is All About: This is one of our favorite church events—a chance to gather as families before the school year takes over. The chicken is always amazing. The laughter is raucous. The pool is full of splashing kids. And the evening? Pure fun. It's become something to behold.

Who's Invited? Everyone. All ages. Every family. Whether you have kids heading into kindergarten or college, whether you're a longtime member or brand new to Saint Paul's—there's a place for you.

What to Bring: Just a side dish to share and maybe an extra lawn chair. The church takes care of the chicken (and it's really good), and together we make a feast.

More details coming soon, but please mark your calendars now: **Saturday, August 15 at 4 p.m.** This is the perfect way to send our kids back to school—surrounded by community, laughter, and love. We can't wait to see you there!

On the Journey Together ~ Summer @ The Farm



Join Pastor Tim for our Children's Moment during worship and continue in the classroom where we'll hear the Bible story and carry out the experiment!

Week 7

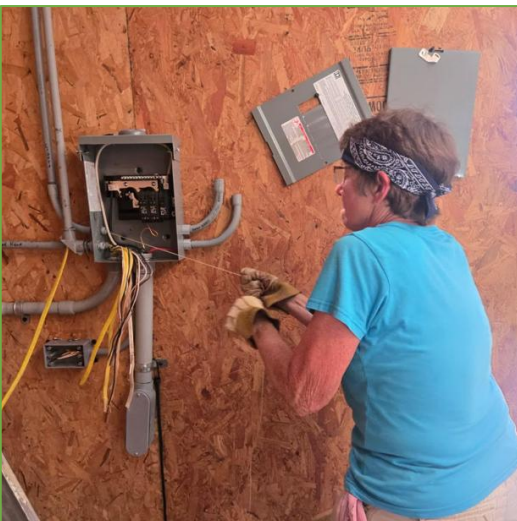
HYPOTHESIS: I want to get even with others.

God's TRUTH: We experience JOY when we learn forgiveness.

Time with Our Children during worship and continuing with a story and experiment during **Children's Church**. Following worship, please enjoy snacks, lemonade, and fellowship on our beautiful porch. We celebrate **Holy Communion** together on the first Sunday of each month, and **Family Night** is monthly on the 2nd Sunday beginning at 5 p.m. While our Chancel and Bell Choirs take a much-needed respite, each Sunday we welcome musicians for **Special Music**.

Weekdays @ The Farm. Monday's 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 on the Porch** 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. Mid-week, we offer **Wednesday Evening Interactive**, a seasonal book/bible study (returning in September). On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month is **Friends Who 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.

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 July 23 and Aug 13 & 27. 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 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please see Terri Kremer with questions or to volunteer.



The work of an electrician's wife is never done! Cyndy Kister is assisting Doug in wiring our new pavilion. And... so much fun at our wet and wild night at church this week. Anyone in the meadow was fair game. Hence, Colleen's buddy, Bo, drenched her with a bucket of water!

Summer @ The Farm. From Sunday, June 7, to Sunday, September 6, coffee is brewed and ready in Fellowship Hall for 10 a.m. and our nursery and sensory rooms are staffed and open. While we do not hold our **Faith Connections** classes during the summer season, Miss Colleen provides a robust and fun curriculum and this year the kiddos will become **Glad Scientists** with a lesson during

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 ~ 7/12/26

Attendance: 146 (2 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 858

Virtual Reach: 3,165

Christian Education: 22

Plate Giving: 2,360.00

Loose Plate: 302.00

Online Giving: 808.34

Operational Total: 3,470.34

Restricted Giving: 810.00

Total Giving: 4,280.34

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Laurie Anderson - 7/19

Autumn Faust - 7/19

Flo Warner - 7/19

David Reid - 7/20

Frank Wetzel - 7/24

Bill Gill - 7/25

Mike Haven - 7/26

Al Henry - 7/26



Happy Anniversary to ...

Brent & Heather Sechrist - 7/21

Laurie & Kris Anderson - 7/25

Mallory & Brent Sample - 7/26