



Saint Paul's Possibilities

August 14, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Where there is an ask, you respond. And you do it beautifully.

Last Saturday, we had the opportunity to host the Bly family as they celebrated the life well-lived of Terry Bly—husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle. Not members of our church, but they needed a space and we had it to offer, and you stepped up to help so beautifully.

It was a great celebration. One person shared with me that it was "just a good ole' homegoing celebration." And the part of supporting the family and all our guests? Beautiful. Thank you. It's just another way we get to be the church.

After the luncheon, a young man, maybe 13 years old, walked up to our folks in the kitchen and thanked the hospitality crew for cooking such "good food." He was Terry's grandson. And so many others offered beautiful words of appreciation. While not necessary, it always feels good to know the things you do are appreciated—and we all felt very appreciated that day.

Then on Sunday, Earl Fisher stood before the congregation and asked for help filling the freezer so all 250 families we serve twice a month could get meat. He gave everyone a \$1.42-a-day challenge: If you could set aside \$1.42 a day for the next 70 days, you'd save \$100. And if everyone who could do that would do that, we'd be covered. It costs roughly \$250 every two weeks to fill the freezer—\$500 a month, \$6,000 a year. Last week alone, we received donations of \$2,100, with another \$500 already pledged. That's five months' worth of proteins already raised. Not to mention one family went out this past week and donated enough frozen food to fill the freezer so we had proteins to share with all our families this week.

Again, the ask was made. And you responded.

Here's what I need to share with you, though. There is one thing we don't make a direct ask for, and I own it: I don't make a specific ask for your regular giving—your tithes and offerings.

I believe that God will put it on people's hearts what we need, and we usually end the year meeting our needs. But the cash flow is sporadic, and many times we carry a fairly sizable deficit mid-year and have to bridge the gap by reaching into our savings—which can be worrisome.

I feel strongly about not preaching about giving. But I also realize that if we don't tell you what we need, you don't know.

One person on Sunday shared with me that they had just taken their Sunday offering and wrote "freezer" on the envelope. That's beautiful. However, when regular offerings are designated for a particular ministry, it can leave us short when it comes to the quiet, essential work that keeps the church functioning—payroll, utilities, rent, insurance, and supplies.

Our weekly need for the operations of this church runs about \$5,000. Our entire staff does well at keeping expenses down and operating very close to—if not below—budget on all the items we have control over. And I believe, and think you will agree, we all—the staff and volunteers alike—do some pretty amazing things here. Just like everyone, our electric bills have doubled for the same usage we had a year ago, and our expenses for hospitality continue to increase as our attendance increases as well, and that's great news!

So, here's what I'm asking: I invite you to prayerfully consider what and how you give, as we do the same.

Do you give sporadically, or do you give regularly—monthly or weekly? Have you had a family conversation about what you give and how you support this faith community and what it means to support this community? Have you increased your giving over the last year if you're able, or are you giving the same gift you've given for years? Do you only give when you're here?

Upcoming Worship

August 16 ~ 12th Sunday after Pentecost
"Reach Out and Touch"

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Matthew 15:21-28

Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart

Lector: Autumn Faust

Acolyte: Sadie Faust

Flower Sponsor: The Wennings

Offering Counters: P. Emory, D. Spear

August 23 ~ 13th Sunday after Pentecost

"Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing"

Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart

Lector: Chris Arnold

Acolyte: Cato Kazibwe

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counters: A. Henry, D. Spear

*August Usher/Greeters: Bill & Lisa Bernard,
Louise Litzy, Joanna Johnson, Scott & Tracy Baylor,
Chris Warner, Kim Ritter*

I pray we are never a church that constantly asks for money. I know we will soon be having a capital campaign to allow everyone to take part in supporting our new home in the barn. But I also know this: If we give regularly of our tithes and offerings, the church will have all it needs to be the church, and extras are truly gifts.

It's great to participate in things like providing picnic tables, Adirondack chairs, and musical instruments, those are all gifts above and beyond our regular giving. The freezer? That's a beautiful ministry, and it's also above and beyond. The church will always support the local missions of being the church.

Here's what I've learned in my 50+ years of church life: When we give regularly of our tithes and offerings—whatever you and your family prayerfully feel called to give—then everything we really need is fully provided for. The extra opportunities and gifts, like those tables and filling the freezer, are so beautiful and continue to be helpful in serving the larger community. And there will be no need to worry from week to week if we will have what we need to operate the church without dipping into our savings.

Here's what I know about us: We've not operated with a big endowment or a large savings account. In fact, I think that's why we can do all we do—because we give together what we can, we share what we have with others as we have the opportunity to, and we constantly seek ways to be the church. This faith community has given regularly an average of 20% of its income to support Missions and Outreach over the past 10 years. And I pray we always continue.

We need to continue two things, first be generous in our work in the community and second continue to take care of the foundation of our sacred space. Regular giving allows us to keep the lights on, pay our staff fairly, and maintain a space where ministry happens. And when that foundation is solid, we can continue to say yes to the beautiful, spontaneous, Spirit-led opportunities that come our way.

So, I'm asking: Would you prayerfully consider your regular giving? Not out of guilt or obligation, but out of love and partnership in what God is doing here. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

That is my hope for us—cheerful, intentional, regular giving that reflects our gratitude for what God has done and is doing through this faith community and our trust in what God will continue to do.

If you have questions about how to set up regular giving electronically, please reach out to Donna. Or if you'd like to talk through what feels right for you and your household, please reach out to me if you choose. We're in this together, it's the only way to be the church and every, absolutely every person matters.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for being a church that responds when asked—and even more, a church that gives freely because you've been freely given to.

With deep gratitude and grace, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report



Saint Paul's Chancel Choir

**Rehearsals for the Fall 2026 Season Begin Sunday, August 30, at 9:00 a.m.
See Patty Wagner with questions.**

Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Sing in the Saint Paul's Chancel Choir

1. *Express Praise - Share a Unique Form of Devotion to God.*
2. *Singing in the Saint Paul's Chancel Choir Is Fun. Just Ask Drew.*
3. *Learn Great Songs that have Profound Messages.*
4. *Make Connections. Getting to Know So Many Wonderful People Who Share a Love for Music.*
5. *Physical Wellbeing and a Mental Boost in Confidence.*
6. *It Feels Amazing. Release Endorphins, Oxytocin, and Dopamine to Lower Stress.*
7. *Learn to Sing, Improve Your Singing, and Keep Your Music Skills Sharp.*
8. *If You Think Singing in the Shower Sounds Good Now, Just Wait till You've Been Singing with Us for a Few Weeks.*
9. *When People Ask You Whether You've Been Behaving Yourself, You Can Say with the Utmost Sincerity...
"Hey, I'm a Choir Boy," or "Hey I'm a Choir Girl."*
10. *Let's be Honest, Your Biggest Obstacle isn't Singing or Being too Busy, It's Deciding to Walk Through the Door, and Trust in the Lord...
and Your Director.*



Fall is Coming—And We're Excited About What's Ahead. This fall, we're deepening our life together with fresh ways to connect, grow, and serve. Whether you're seeking community, spiritual growth, or just a good time with friends, there's a place for you.

New for the Fall:

- **Soul Sisters:** August 25, at noon, Union Cellars. Women of all ages welcome for friendship and connection!
- **The Forge:** A new men's group for relationship building and brotherhood, facilitated by Drew Faust. Kickoff cookout on September 11, 6 p.m. at The Farm.
- **Enhanced Youth & Children Programming:** Confirmation, a new Junior Deacons group, an enhanced children's choir, and continued Second Sunday Family Nights for all ages.
- **Wednesday Evening Interactive:** A reflective study on experiencing the Holy. Fresh look, deeper engagement. Returning September 2, 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Continuing Ways to Gather This Fall:

- **Monday Morning Reflections:** Bible study, 10 a.m.
- **Friends Who Breakfast:** 9:30/9:45 a.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
- **Pastor on the Porch:** Lunch fellowship, 11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays)
- **Family Night:** 5–7 p.m. (Second Sundays)
- **Word, Wine & Wisdom:** Evening gathering, 4:30 p.m. (4th Fridays)
- **Fresh Express:** Open gathering, 1–5 p.m. (2nd & 4th Thursdays)

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, August 30, is the next New Member Sunday. We will celebrate together as new members join our faith family officially. Because that's what you are—family. Welcome home. For questions, more information or to share your intention, please reach out to Pastor Tim.

And These Fall Adventures:

- October 4: **Walk to End Hunger.** A community gathering to raise awareness and funds for families in need in our area.
- October 10: **Hayride & Campfire Evening.** An annual night of fellowship and seasonal joy at a local farm.
- October 11: **Blessing of the Animals.** Bring your beloved pets for a special blessing.
- October 25: **Monstrous Love Sunday.** Trunk or Treat and a Fall Festival atmosphere to welcome friends, family, and neighbors.
- November 7: **Soup, Bake, Craft & Barn Yard Sale for Missions.**

There's a seat at every table. Pick what calls to you—or try something new or be here for every event, because we are not the same when you are not here. Questions? Call Donna or Nicole in the church office, reach out to Lisa Bernard, Chair of the Deacons, or Pastor Tim.



Mifflinburg Wildcats Backpack Opportunity. Collection of items for our participation in September's Wildcat Backpack Program have begun, and we thank you for help in collecting the items needed. Here are the details and a few updates: You may drop off items at the church office or offering plate by Sunday, August 28 at noon, to allow us to pick up any additional

items needed for packing before the distribution date. If you wish to give financially, put "Wildcat" in your memo line. Our packing date is Wednesday, September 9, at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall. And distribution to the school is Thursday morning, September 10. If you wish to volunteer or have any questions, please check in with Ashley Rosboschil. What a privilege to be God's hands and feet in our community. Thank you for answering this call to serve! See the list of items needed on Prayers and Love.



Our Sunday Morning Breakfast Returns August 30! Our

Sunday morning breakfast returns for its 8th year beginning Sunday, August 30 at 10 a.m. What started as a simple continental breakfast has grown beautifully to include about 75 people every Sunday. But we've learned something important: as numbers grew, so did expectations. What was meant to be light and easy began to feel like a full meal responsibility. We don't want that. That's not who we are. This fall, we're returning to our original vision—sustainable and joyful for everyone. Here's how it works: Breakfast is served from the kitchen 10:00–10:20 a.m. with a rotating menu. Coffee is ready at 9 a.m. A Kitchen Coordinator helps serve. You choose how to participate: provide a dish, share a dish with another family, offer a donation, or simply come and be fed. Every contribution matters equally. Recipes are available (all cost-effective), and sign-up sheets are just inside Fellowship Hall.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

George Mull - 8/14
Tyler Troup - 8/16
Barbara Wagner - 8/16
Judy Albright - 8/17
Roxann Deitrick - 8/17
Annette Weaver - 8/17
Amy Rearick - 8/19
Steve Shirk - 8/19
Kris Wenning - 8/19
Donna Bennett - 8/20
Emerson Council - 8/20
Mark Nielsen - 8/20
Nora Hockenbrock - 8/21
Mary Beth Johnson - 8/23



Happy Anniversary to ...

Jessica & Justin Kozick - 8/15
Gloria & Bill Lehman - 8/18
Doug & Morgan Richard - 8/18
Nicole & Chad Kister - 8/19
Louise Litzy & Jenn Van Horn - 8/22

On the Journey Together

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Diane Buck
Mark Covert
Rebecca Foote
Sharon Foust
Shirley Franquet
Ellie Guerrero
Katy Mahon
Amanda Unzueta
Tommy Ward

Summer Sundays @ The Farm. Through August 23, 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 **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. 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. **Next Saint Paul's Community Harvest cooking time is Monday, August 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. John's UCC.**

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 ~ 8/9/26

Attendance: 149 (4 visitor)

LIVE Attendance: 1,047

Virtual Reach: 5,808

Christian Education: 23

Plate Giving: 1,602.00

Loose Plate: 256.00

Online Giving: 905.89

Operational Total: 2,763.89

Restricted Giving: 2,480.00

Total Giving: 5,243.89

FRIDAY NIGHT

JOIN PASTOR TIM AND LISA AS WELL AS OTHER MEMBERS OF
YOUR FAITH FAMILY THIS SEASON ON THE SIDELINES
DURING FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS.

LEWISBURG

MIFFLINBURG

MILTON

8/28 @ Danville
9/4 @ Shikellamy
9/12 vs. Hughesville
9/18 vs. Southern Columbia
9/25 @ Warrior Run
10/2 @ Loyalsock
10/9 vs. Midd-West
10/16 vs. Bloomsburg
10/23 @ Milton
10/30 vs. Mifflinburg

8/28 vs. Shikellamy
9/4 vs. Selinsgrove
9/11 @ Bloomsburg
9/18 @ Hughesville
9/25 vs. Loyalsock
10/2 vs. Warrior Run
10/9 @ Central Mountain
10/16 @ Midd-West
10/23 vs. Montoursville
10/30 @ Lewisburg

8/28 vs. Bloomsburg
9/4 @ Hughesville
9/11 @ Mount Carmel
9/18 vs. Danville
9/25 @ Montoursville
10/2 vs. Northwest
10/9 vs. Central Columbia
10/16 @ Southern Columbia
10/23 vs. Lewisburg
10/30 @ Warrior Run

Saint Paul's @ The Farm

HOMECOMING 2026

BRING A FRIEND
STAY FOR LUNCH

SEPTEMBER 13

FAMILY - WELCOME - TRADITION

LET'S CELEBRATE HOME TOGETHER

Meatloaf and mashed potatoes
provided. Bring your favorite side
or dessert to share.