

## Powered by Grace and Coffee

*a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo*

Dear Faith Family,

This past Tuesday at 6 p.m., our first Warming Shelter officially closed after 19 days of sub-freezing temperatures. And of course, we celebrated with food and fellowship—it's what we do.

The numbers tell part of the story: 1,000+ hours of volunteer time, nearly 60 meals served, five guests sheltered. But the real story is in the changed lives—both guests and hosts—and in the leap of faith you all took to meet a need none of us had all the answers for.

When we heard on January 22nd that 60 people were on Haven Ministries' waiting list and Union County had no open shelters, we knew we had to do something. As a Red Cross Disaster Recovery partner, we thought: why not this?

We opened with more questions than answers, and we learned as we went. From ways to schedule to opportunities to streamline and better utilize resources. However, once again, as with everything we do when we are being the church, living into community, it became a labor of love. While we served five guests altogether, three of them were with us for two weeks, and all three have told stories and commented how the warming shelter saved their lives. One was trapped and found by the fire department when a tent she was living in collapsed under the weight of the snow. Another was on his journey walking home with miles to go when the storm and cold came. Another had no place to go but his car.

And even while the shelter was open, we got to be the church in all our usual ways. We celebrated the lives of saints gone before us, we worshiped, we gathered for fellowship and offered food to families in need. But one of the biggest things we got to do was celebrate when our own Katy received her kidney after eight long years of waiting. We prayed for the donor's family, and we gave thanks to God for Katy's resilience. Even our shelter guests joined in on the prayers and rejoicing. Our guests became examples of what we often say: you come through our doors as visitors and by the time you leave, you are forever family.

This spirit of welcome isn't new for us. It strikes me that we see it every week at Fresh Express, where our food distribution guests have also become family. They share prayer requests and joys with us. They laugh when one of our volunteers tries to speak their native language. They show up often or occasionally, and all are treated the same—with great love and respect.

In listening to the testimony of one of our visitors this past week, something she said struck me: she felt the warmth of this place the moment she pulled into the parking lot. That touched my heart because no matter the weather our ushers and greeters are out there, welcoming strangers and old friends and family alike. It made me think: this place of welcome, of love for one another, takes all of us. We walk life's journeys together, no one is an outsider, and we get to share love with all who pull into our parking lot because we are all on a journey together—all here for one another.

So, to everyone from Warming Shelter volunteers, to Fresh Express organizers and deliverers, to the ones sitting by the bedside with Katy, Amy, and Staci, I say thank you. Thank you for making this a place of love and community, a place where all are not only welcomed but loved and respected right where they are. Will we always get it right? No. But our work together continues, and we'll keep showing up, learning, and loving one another better every day.

### Please Pray for

Linda Beaver  
Carol Engle  
Traci Eschbach  
Robin Huffman  
Dick Knobel  
Katy Mahon

The Prowant Family  
Chuck Schworer  
Meg Schaeffer  
The Summer Family  
Tommy Ward  
Barclay Wilson  
Unspoken Requests

*Updates to our Prayer List are made by calling the church office, filling out a prayer request card located in our sanctuary, or by posting on our prayers and love FB page.*

Thank you, beautiful family, for being the church, the community, the love for all neighbors.

And here's the thing: the work doesn't stop. Fresh Express continues every second and fourth Thursday. Worship and fellowship every Sunday. Besides to sit by. Neighbors who need to know someone cares. As we move toward Lent and Ash Wednesday (February 18), I invite you to keep asking: What does love require of me this week? Not in grand gestures, but in the small, steady acts of showing up.

The warming shelter may have closed, but the season of love—of being the church together—never ends. Let's keep going and see where the Holy leads us next.

You are loved and beloved.

*With Love, Pastor Tim*

## The Farm Report



### BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

**Forgive often.**

**REJECT RACISM.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

**Love God.**

**Enjoy this life.**

Saint Paul's  
@ The Farm  
United Church of Christ

**You asked and we listened.** We're bringing back the original Saint Paul's logo—your "throwback" option—with all the flexibility of our current shop. Starting soon, you can order shirts, hoodies, hats, or whatever you choose from Outshine Promotions with our classic logo on the back.

Why now? Parade season! Whether you're marching with us in the Union County Veterans 4th of July Parade (June 27 in Lewisburg, celebrating our country's 250th anniversary) or the Milton Harvest Festival Parade (September 19), wearing our logo together is a simple way to show up as community.

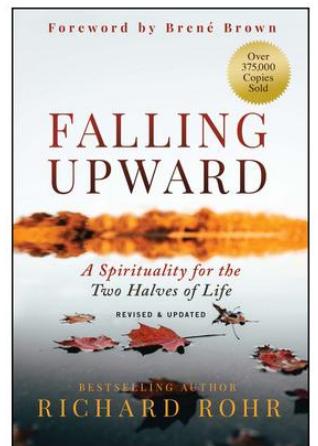
Visit <https://www.ospshirtshop.com/saint-pauls-the-farm> to place your order today.

And here's the thing: logo wear is completely optional. You don't need a shirt to help us march, and you don't need a parade to wear one. We're just making it available because you asked.

**Falling Upward: A Reflective Lenten Book Study.** What if the second half of life isn't about getting older, but about becoming more fully alive? That's what Richard Rohr explores in *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*—and Chaplain Kate invites you to explore it with her.

Over four weeks this Lenten season, we'll journey together through Rohr's insights on how heartbreak, disappointment, and failure aren't obstacles to spiritual growth—they're gateways to it. We'll rediscover the wisdom of our inner child. We'll embrace our "shadow-self" as a teacher. We'll learn to mirror our God-self in thought and action. And we'll do it together, in community. Here's what to expect:

- **March 4:** The First Half of Life—Understanding how life's early heartbreaks and disappointments are actually stepping stones
- **March 11:** The Tragic Sense of Life—Why doing it wrong teaches us more than doing it right
- **March 18:** Amnesia—Rediscovering enchantment, love, unique journeys, and the grace of our failures
- **March 25:** The Spirit of Self—Mirroring God's image in all we do and all we are



As Chaplain Kate says, "Father Rohr has a way of writing simply and prophetically, both at the same time and in this century." His words have shaped her spiritual journey, and she's genuinely looking forward to this conversation with you.

Join us: Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room, March 4–25. Come early for tea, bring your beautiful heart, and let's explore this together.



**Recalculating: A Sermon Series for Lent.** You know that moment when your GPS recalculates? When you've gone off course and that familiar voice says, "Recalculating"—and suddenly you're redirected toward your destination? That's what this Lenten season is about.

Following Jesus isn't a straight line. It's a journey that often calls us to recalculate—to rethink our thoughts, our actions, our prayers, our conversations with God. It invites us to ask: Am I still heading where God is calling me?

This Lent, Pastor Tim will preach a series called Recalculating, exploring pivotal moments in Jesus' life and ministry—times when He adjusted course, challenged assumptions, and showed us what it means to respond with the Holy Spirit's guidance rather than our own fear or habit. Each week, we'll discover how those moments speak to our recalculations, our redirections, our call to live more faithfully.

Here's what's ahead:

- **Ash Wednesday, February 18 @ 7 p.m.:** Special music, reflection, and the beginning of our journey together in the Sanctuary with imposition of ashes.
- **Following Sundays through Easter (April 5):** Weekly sermons exploring Jesus' most transformative moments.

This isn't just about giving something up for Lent. It's about recalculating toward something—toward deeper faith, toward justice, toward love, toward home. We'd love to have you on this journey. See you Wednesday.

## Upcoming Worship

February 15 ~ Transfiguration Sunday  
"Can I Get a Witness"

II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Reba Rohrer

Acolyte: Kendrick Swartz

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Breakfast Sponsor: Fasnacht Family

Flower Sponsor: Pastor Tim

Offering Counter: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

February 18 ~ Ash Wednesday 7 p.m.

"Recalculating: When Love Takes an Unexpected Turn"

Psalm 51; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Annette Weaver

Acolyte: Cora Kazibwe

February 22 ~ First Sunday of Lent  
"More Doing"

Matthew 5:43-48

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Frank Wetzel

Acolyte: Emerson Counsil

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Breakfast Sponsor: Barb Wagner

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: K. Showers, D. Spear

February Usher/Greeter Team:

Bill & Lisa Bernard, Scott & Tracy

Baylor, Louise Litzy, Joanna Johnson,

Reba Rohrer, Chris Warner,

Kim Ritter

## Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

DeAnna Bystedt - 2/13

David Kazibwe - 2/18

Diana Longan - 2/22

Piper Stahl - 2/22

Priscilla Lanks - 2/28



Happy Anniversary to ...

Carol & Bobby Snyder - 2/14

Jane Rowe & Michael Humphrey - 2/22

Richard & Amy Armstrong - 2/26

Mark & Dianne Covert - 2/28

*Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know in the church office so that we may celebrate with you!*

~ Looking back on the ministries of 2025 ~

*A time of celebration of who we are  
and who we are called to be.*

**Sunday, February 22, 2026  
following worship ... there will be cake!**

*Saint Paul's @ The Farm*

Have you considered sponsoring flowers to be placed in our Sanctuary during worship?

We have several open dates for sponsorship. Flowers can be placed in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one, friend, neighbor or in appreciation for something someone has done for you. Sign up form is on our website homepage. Or, contact the church office for more information.

# 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. Our **Faith Connections** classes run from 9 to 10 a.m. and include Pre-K to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade **Explorers**; 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade **Pathfinders**; and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade to Age 99 **Travelers**. From 10 a.m. to 10:20, please enjoy breakfast, coffee, and fellowship then worship begins at 10:30. Following the “Time with Our Children,” during worship, kiddos aged 3 to 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, we enjoy **Family Night** from 5 to 6:45. On the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together. Pictured above: We welcomed new members last Sunday Robert, Summer, Renee, John, Amy, Deb, and Steve as well as Andrew, Michelle, Masen, and Piper. (not pictured).

**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. On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday and Silver Moon Restaurant (9:30) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. On the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 5:15 to 6:15 and plays for worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. The **Children’s Choir** practices during a portion of the Faith Connection classes with Miss Sharon and Miss Ashley and they bless our worship time once a month with their selections.

## Serving @ The Farm.

Mission and Outreach is an integral part of us “being the church” at Saint Paul’s. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 February 12 and 26. We also participate in **Community Harvest**, a monthly distribution on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at St. John’s UCC and in conjunction with Bucknell’s Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research. And, Saint Paul’s has a long history of offering an **Emergency Food Pantry** that we lovingly refer to as our “Little Red Wagon” Our needs at this time are for: **Local Grocery Gift Cards to: Aldi, Giant and Weis. Gas Cards: Sheetz, Wawa, and Weis, any canned fruits and vegetables with pop tops, shelf stable milk, small bottles of vegetable oil, and canned proteins and box dinners, i.e. hamburger and tuna helper.** You may drop food items in the little red wagon on the porch outside the Sanctuary door and gift cards may be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday morning or to the church office throughout the week.

## Stewardship

Gift & Offerings ~  
2/8/26

“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:	131 (7 visitors)
LIVE Attendance:	2,640
Virtual Reach:	30,264
Christian Education:	57
Plate Giving:	3,270.00
Loose Plate:	282.00
Online Giving:	872.54
Operational Total:	4,424.54
Restricted Giving:	310.00
Total Giving:	4,734.54

