



Saint Paul's Possibilities

July 31, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

This has been an unusual week—one filled with unexpected blessings. On Saturday morning I was putting final touches on Sunday's sermon when a dear friend who lives out of state arrived for a short visit with her daughters. After a few errands and lunch, I became ill. While that sudden illness wasn't itself a blessing, what followed over the next 48 hours certainly was.

Surrounded by prayers and my attentive husband's care, I quickly realized this wouldn't be something resolved in a fast manner or on its own. Yet even in my reflection on what was happening, I was at peace. I recognized God's familiar presence. By Sunday morning, I wasn't sure what to expect—but when worship began, I was able to experience it myself. It wasn't from the vantage point I'd anticipated, but it was beautiful and deeply moving nonetheless.

Here's what happened: Chaplain Kate Schaeffer had options. She could have accepted Sharon and Patty's offer to lead a hymn sing. She could have spoken from her own sense of the Spirit's leading. She could have used the sermon I'd written and simply read it. She could have written her own sermon, or she could have said no to all of the above.

Instead, she did something beautiful—she took what the Spirit was leading in my sermon and allowed the Spirit to guide her, making it a beautifully connected message and her own. Afterward, Kate told me she couldn't remember everything she'd said or prayer she had prayed. But what I and others witnessed was sacred and perfect. God's hand was clearly at work in both of us, in my peace and the perfection with which she guided Sunday's worship with less than half a day's notice. Oh, my heart!

Special thanks to Dr. Faustenstein for stepping up to lead the children's message when his cousin Dr. Hoganstein became ill. The family resemblance between them was striking—and delightful! And to Miss Donna for masterfully stepping in to help organize a seamless morning for everyone, and to the A/V team substitutes for covering the cameras. Blessings, each of them, just as our usher and greeter teams are every week. People see a need and step in the gap in beautiful ways.

The blessings continued long after the final Amen of the service. Doctors, nurses, visitors, calls, and texts—the love flowed in, around, and through Saint Paul's. It poured right out our doors and up the street. People often tell me they can feel the love when they walk into this place. When you're immersed in it continually, you may not fully realize how powerfully warm and enveloping it is. But stepping outside of it, even briefly, I saw its beauty on full display—like a warm summer rainbow vibrantly filling the sky.

I know you. I know this community. I know us and how we seek to be the church—how you serve our neighbors, how you desire deeper engagement, how you share your hopes and dreams for more ministry together. I've heard your excitement about learning and growing and exploring faith as both a body and as individuals. I know our faith is fluid, and I'm grateful when someone says to me, "I don't know what I believe," and then shows up anyway—seeking, questioning, growing together in this sacred space we share. How beautiful is that?! Here we serve, we fellowship, and yes, we worship.

Please Pray for

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



A few hours and steps away from my usual role gave me an extraordinary gift: a renewed vision, a rekindled hope for all that God is doing in and through our faith community here at Saint Paul's @ The Farm. I write this week with deep gratitude. Thank you for showing up. Thank you for your presence, your time, your talents, your faith, your prayers, your hopes and dreams, and your compassion—for me, for one another, and for our shared commitment to the One who knew and lived deep love with us all.

A special thanks for Chaplain Kate and a selfish prayer that the Holy will allow us to do more and more together for the kingdom we know as Saint Paul's @ The Farm.

Thanking God for all the blessings and for each of you, always.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Opportunity Knocks—Again! One wonderful thing about being open to the Holy Spirit is that the Holy shows up and shows out, giving us opportunities to serve exactly where we are led. What a gift it is to be used by God in unexpected ways!

Last year, Saint Paul's stepped up to feed 200 students in the Mifflinburg School District. This year, we're doing it again—and we're excited to build on that beautiful partnership with Mifflinburg Kiwanis. How blessed are we to be called into this ongoing ministry!



The Story Behind the Opportunity: Last year, we were able to step in and fill the gap with our neighbors at Mifflinburg Kiwanis to ensure the students needing backpacks had them for the month of September. These backpacks provide weekend food for 200 students. After last year we were asked if we could go on a regular rotation to support these children. Our answer? "Absolutely!" Last year, your generosity ensured no child in the Mifflinburg district went hungry over the weekend. So, this year, we get to do it again.

Here's How We Get to Serve: On Wednesday, September 2 @ 11:30 a.m., Saint Paul's family—that's all of us, whoever is available—will pack 200 take-home meal packs and then deliver them to Mifflinburg Middle School on Thursday. The school will then distribute these items to 200 children in need throughout the district, ensuring these precious ones have food for the upcoming weekend.

To make this happen, we need all food donations by Sunday, August 30. This gives us time to organize everything before packing day on Wednesday.

The total cost of the project will be between **\$500–\$600**, or just **\$2.50 to \$3.00** per child to provide seven meals for the weekend.

What We Need (600 of Each Item):

- Pop Tarts – packs of 2 (boxes have 3 – 2 packs)
- Individual bags/packages of snack crackers
- Granola bars or breakfast bars
- Individual peanut butter packets (or small jars)
- Cans or packets of tuna or chicken
- Small bags of pretzels or chips
- Oatmeal packets or small boxes of cereal
- Canned cups of pasta and/or soup

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Scott Baylor - 7/31

Thomas Wagner - 7/31

David Wagner - 8/4

Richie Eveland - 8/6

Peggy Rubillo - 8/8



Happy Anniversary to ...

Drew & Autumn Faust - 8/3

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

How You Can Be Part of This Great Opportunity:

- Donate items — Drop off contributions to the church office or offering plate by Tuesday at 12 noon (deadline is firm for packing day!)
- Give financially — We'll purchase needed items with monetary donations (put "Wildcat" in your memo)
- Volunteer to pack — Join us Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to assemble meal packs
- Help with delivery — Assist with Thursday morning school delivery

A Privilege and a Gift: What a privilege it is to be God's hands and feet in our community in this way! These aren't burdens we carry, but gifts we get to give. When the Holy Spirit opens doors like this, we get to step through them and watch God work through our simple acts of love.

Thank you in advance for allowing us all to respond to the Holy's nudging to help our neighbors—in this beautiful way and in all the ways we get to serve together. To borrow a phrase: this is the fabric of our lives.

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 THIS FALL:

- Soul Sisters — A new women's gathering facilitated by Autumn Faust, meeting twice monthly to offer support and presence for women of all ages and life stages.
- The Forge — A new men's gathering facilitated by Drew Faust, starting with a cookout at the Farm and designed to build relationships and brotherhood.
- 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 — Taking on a fresh look to engage the senses and deepen relationships.

CONTINUING WAYS TO GATHER THIS FALL:

- Monday Reflections Bible Study, 10 a.m.
- Friends Who Breakfast, 9:45/9:30 a.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
- Pastor on the Porch lunch, 11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays)
- Word, Wine & Wisdom, 4:30 p.m. (4th Fridays)
- Fresh Express, 1-5 p.m. (2nd & 4th Thursdays)

And a few other returning **FALL ADVENTURES:**

- October 4 Walk to End Hunger
- October 10 Hayride & Campfire Evening
- October 11 Blessing of the Animals
- October 25 Monstrous Love Sunday
- November 7 Soup, Bake, Craft & Barn Yard Sale for Missions

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.

We are looking for you... at all of our upcoming fall events because we are not the same when you are not here!



Upcoming Worship

August 2 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost
"Heat Wave"

Isaiah 55:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart

Lector: Heidi Hagan

Acolyte: Cora Kazibwe

Flower Sponsor: Terri Kremer

Offering Counters: K. Showers, D. Spear

Communion Assistants:

Richard & Amy Armstrong

Ethan Cree, Kathy Showers

Aug 9 ~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost
"Don't Look Back"

Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-23

Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart

Lector: Christine Parker

Acolyte: Finn Rosboschil

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counters: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

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

On the Journey Together ~ Summer @ The Farm

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 **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**.



Our village from last Sunday's service ... Drew as Dr. Faustenstein, the children bringing us into worship with our "celebration" introit, Rhett bringing in the light, and Ashley & Kelly providing very 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.



Join Miss Colleen 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 9

HYPOTHESIS: I should always go first.

God's TRUTH: We experience JOY when we serve others.

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 ~ 7/26/26

Attendance: 148 (1 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 3,243

Virtual Reach: 10,893

Christian Education: 22

Plate Giving: 3,534.00

Loose Plate: 250.00

Online Giving: 655.04

Operational Total: 4,439.04

Restricted Giving: 662.00

Total Giving: 5,101.04

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 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.



Saint Paul's Family Chicken BBQ & Back to School Swim Party
Saturday, August 15, at 4 p.m. at the Gill home

Bring a picnic side dish to share and maybe an extra lawn chair.

The chicken is provided. (it's really good, Mama Gill's recipe)