



Saint Paul's Possibilities

July 3, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

A Season of Welcome!

Summer at Saint Paul's has brought us something beautiful: 31 visitors in June alone! Isn't that wonderful? That fact coupled with record summer attendance is a real joy to celebrate!

But here's my real question: How many of our visitors have you met? Now I know some of you have met some of them and most of them were invited by someone. However, there's a greater question here.

Last Sunday, we were near capacity with 11 visitors searching for seats. And I'll be honest—I noticed something that broke my heart a little. A few visitors heard, "That's my seat," before having to wander and search.

I get it. We're creatures of habit. We have our spots—some out of real need (proximity to the restroom, the nursery, accessibility). But many of us sit where we sit simply because it's comfortable and familiar.

Here's the thing: No matter how much someone loves the music, the sermon, or the fellowship, feeling unwelcome changes everything. It keeps people from coming back. And not having a place to sit or someone to invite them to share a space feels pretty unwelcoming. Now, it's happened, and so we learn and we grow. Really, it's a blessing—a call to intentional welcome and a great reminder for us all.

We say we're a welcoming faith community, and I believe with all my heart we are. Not just with words, but with a simple gesture: move over. Make room. Invite a stranger to sit with you, even if it means leaving your comfortable spot.

On another occasion this week I asked someone if they knew who someone else was in our faith community. The answer was I've seen them, but I'm not sure who they are. And it happens, and there is no judgment only an ask, begin to ensure you get to know each other, build those relationships, bridge the gap with one another, I mean we are all a part of the body of Christ, and so let's just get to know one another.

You never know when a lifelong friendship might begin.

I'm asking our ushers and greeters to help connect visitors with people and seats. And I'm asking you to help too. If you're able, consider sitting in the choir loft or away from the seats closest to the doors, leaving space for others to join us. Meet them, greet them, welcome them and come, sit by me. And if someone comes in late, get up and give them your seat or scoot over and invite them in your aisle or to sit beside you.

Summer is a great time for rest and renewal and meeting new friends at church. Oh, yes, and try out ice-cream recipes on your faith family too, summer is always good for that, especially since July 19 will be for our ice-cream social (Freeze-Off 2026) I'm willing to taste test for any of you.

Sometimes, radical welcome causes us to leave our comfort zones and invite others in.

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Patti Faux
Rebecca Foote
Elladee Freeman
Tyler Kratzer-Gemberling
Ellie Guerrero
Robin Huffman
Katy Mahon
Chuck Schworer
Courtney Showers
Amanda Unzueta
Tommy Ward

Peace and blessings, Pastor Tim

The Farm Report



A Place to Gather: Our New Pavilion. There's magic in "The Teddy Bear Picnic"—that old song about woodland creatures gathering together under the trees in community. Well, we now have our own version. After months of hard work, we have a place to picnic overlooking the meadow, nestled under the trees, where community gathers.

For this space, we set out to find a local builder for picnic tables. Through our contacts, we discovered Carter from Middleburg—a young craftsman making exceptional tables. As Jen Van Horn said, "They're excellent tables with amazing craftsmanship." We ordered 14 six-foot tables. It took three people to carry one table (they're really well made!), Carter and his mother were excited to share that this is his largest order yet.



Jenn, Brad, Pastor Tim, and Bob trying out one of our new picnic tables, the first to arrive as Craftsman Carter, age 12, continues to construct!

We wanted to offer everyone a way to participate and some have come and helped demolish, build up, paint, etc. Another way we determined was accepting donations to sponsor picnic tables (\$220 each) in honor, celebration, or memory of someone special.

To sponsor: Drop a check in the offering plate with "picnic table" in the memo, give online, or stop by the office. Contact us with your dedication, and we'll honor your loved one in this beautiful space.

God's handiwork is evident in every aspect. From concept to completion, we've felt God's presence in every detail—the lights, the tables, every generous hand. This pavilion is holy ground, a place where we're building relationships, growing faith, and becoming church together. Thank you for your time, talents, and resources. This space is ours because of you.

A Fresh Start Begins With a Bench. You may have noticed a charming, kid-sized farm-style bench on our church porch—or perhaps just inside our doors. It's impossible to miss, and that's very much on purpose. That bench is an invitation. It's here to draw your attention to DIG Furniture Bank's annual "Fresh Start" fundraiser, and to invite you into the transformative work happening right in our own community. DIG helps newly housed families transition into stability by providing the essential furniture and household items that make a house feel like home. As a non-profit, they rely on the generosity of volunteers, fundraisers, and community partners like us to keep doing this vital work.

This year, that charming bench will be part of DIG's online auction—but there are many ways to participate and help your neighbors start fresh. You can browse items online, attend an in-person event on July 24th (complete with a silent auction and more), or simply learn more about their mission. Interested in bidding on the bench or discovering other treasures? Check out the QR code posted nearby the bench, visit their website, or connect with them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DIGFurnitureBank>.

Every bid. Every donation. Every item helps a neighbor begin again.



Summer at The Farm: Come Belong. Our 4th summer at The Farm is shaping up to be something special. There's community to celebrate, traditions to honor, milestones to share—and you're invited to be part of it all. Community celebrations coming this summer:

July 12: Wet & Wild Family Night in the Meadow - Cool off, laugh a little, and remember what it feels like to just be together as a family of faith.

July 19: 4th Annual Ice Cream Freeze Off & Pavilion Grand Opening - Following our monthly church luncheon (picnic this month!) You'll want to stick around for this one!

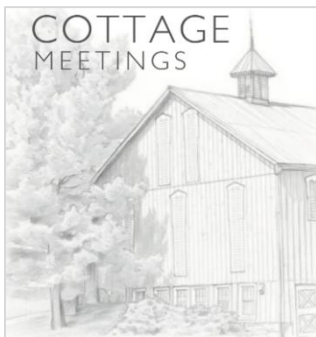
Aug 2: Take Me Out to the Ball Game...Crosscutters - There's nothing quite like a summer evening at the ball park. Bring a friend. Make a memory.

Aug 15: Back to School Chicken Barbecue & Swim - New school year, old friends, and a meal shared together.

August 28, 29 & 30 – A weekend of Peace. This is big. We're dedicating an entire weekend to peace, purpose, and celebration.

- Friday, August 28: *Word, Wine & Wisdom - A special gathering to set the tone for the weekend ahead.*
- Saturday, August 29: *Music on the Porch for Peace - As the summer light fades, we gather for songs, presence, good food, and great fellowship. There's something sacred about music and community under the stars.*
- Sunday, August 30: *Pastor Tim's Full Ordination Celebration - After years of preparation and faithfulness, Pastor Tim was approved for full ordination into ministry. This marks a new chapter for him—and for all of us.*

Join us for a weekend celebration unlike any other, complete with s'mores and the joy of witnessing God's call unfold in our midst. As together we celebrate and honor a weekend of peace—from fellowship to laughter to music and more. Summer at The Farm is about more than events. It's about remembering who we are together and who we are called to be as a community. Mark your calendars. Bring a friend. You belong here.



Cottage Meetings: Your Voice Matters! If you haven't already signed up, please do so this Sunday or call the church office. We're contacting families to help schedule you—it's really that important. **What Are Cottage Meetings?** Intimate gatherings (12-14 people) where we ask the questions that matter most: What drew you to Saint Paul's? What are your hopes and dreams for our future? How can you help? Then we listen—really listen—to each other and to the Spirit. This isn't a rubber-stamp meeting. Your voice, your wisdom, your doubts, your dreams—they all matter. **What We'll Discuss.** Everything on your mind: the pavilion, small groups, Christian formation for children and youth, property plans, and beyond. This is your chance to shape our future together. **Multiple times are available;** choose what works for your family: Wednesdays: July 8, 15, 22 (noon & 6:30 p.m.) Sundays: July 12, 19, 26 (noon or 1 p.m.) Sign up this Sunday or call the office. We want to hear from you.

Upcoming Worship

July 5 ~ Sixth Sunday after Pentecost ~ "Come See About Me"
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 ~ Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard
Lector: Cyndy Kister ~ Acolyte: Emma Hott ~ Flower Sponsor: Pastor Tim & Chip
Communion Assistants: Jen Arnold, Jeanie Council, Rhonda Newton, Donna Spear
Offering Counters: J. Van Horn, D. Spear

July 12 ~ Seventh Sunday after Pentecost ~ "You Can't Hurry Love"
Isaiah 55:10-13; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 ~ Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard
Lector: Ethan Cree ~ Acolyte: Finley Cree ~ Flower Sponsor: Available
Offering Counters: E. Fisher, D. Spear

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

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
Myrtle Hogan - 7/5
Emma Hott - 7/5
Sharon Foust - 7/6
Sue Overdorf - 7/6
Sharon Styer - 7/6
Isaiah Franciscus - 7/8
Tina Stahl - 7/9
Ron Wenning - 7/9

Happy Anniversary to ...
McNeil & Christine Parker - 7/6
Deb & Steve Frei - 7/7

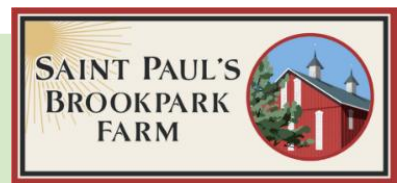


Stewardship

"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 ~ 6/28/26
Attendance: 160 (11 visitors)
LIVE Attendance: 933
Virtual Reach: 36,219
Christian Education: 18

Plate Giving:	2,504.00
Loose Plate:	330.00
Online Giving:	1,195.15
Operational Total:	4,029.15
Restricted Giving:	1,920.00
Total Giving:	5,949.15



Brookpark Farm News

There's something sacred about caring for a place—tending it the way a gardener tends soil or a shepherd tends a flock. That's what our Stewardship Team, led by Jen Van Horn and Bob Gift, does daily. Read about some of what we are experiencing.

This Week – Walls have gone up to help out our friends from Face To Face Church better define their space here at the Farm. And another wall will soon be constructed to help better define rest room facility space for our non-water supplied buildings. *Doug Kister* has been working diligently on new wiring, lighting and outlets for the Pavilion while *Tina Longan* has been helping to sand and paint fences. All hands are getting everything ready for the July 19 Grand Opening and Ice-cream Freeze-off!

The Farm is a Gift - And gifts require care. We're grateful for every person who helps tend it. There's always something to do, and there's something deeply spiritual about working together on behalf of a place we love, God's property.

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**.

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 9 & 23. 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 (*next date is July 18*) and assist on select months with monthly distribution there on the 3rd Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.



A little (or a lot) of rain never dampens the spirit of Saint Paul's! Thank you to all who helped with this year's Union County 4th of July Veteran's Parade. Memories made. Fun had!

