Saint Paul's Possibilities

November 20, 2026 **News & Ways to Engage**

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

In February 2020, we were worshiping in our original home at 433 High Street in West Milton—the little white church on the hill. By the grace of God, that little church was often full. The sanctuary could hold about 100 people if we really made use of every inch, and the Fellowship Hall began to feel a bit beyond cozy once we reached 65. Families learned to sit close, share space, and make room wherever they could. In many ways, that crowded little church helped us become the blended and welcoming family we are today.

That month, we gathered for a meal with people sitting in the hallways, on the stairwell, and even upstairs in the big room (which could also seat about 60). We did not know it at the time, but it would be our last shared meal there for quite a while. Within a month, in-person worship was suspended, and it would be more than a year before we gathered around tables for a meal together again.

I sometimes wonder whether those close quarters drew us even closer. We had become accustomed to making room for one another, and we certainly longed for the day when we could once again worship, eat, laugh, and fellowship around the same table. That memory came flooding back this past Sunday here @ The Farm.

Upcoming Worship

November 22 ~ Christ the King Sunday
"Fill by Christ the King" Ephesians 1:15-23
Worship Leader: Jen Arnold
Lector: Holly Barbella; Acolyte: Mauve Gault
Communion Assistants: Ron & Kris Wenning, Gwen Lemmerman, Gloria Lehman
Flower Sponsor: Mathias/Queen
Breakfast Sponsor: Dressler
Kitchen: Kathy Showers
Offering Counters: P. Emory, D. Spear

November 29 ~ First Sunday of Advent
"In My Day"
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37
Worship Leader: Jen Arnold
Lector: Autumn Faust; Acolyte: Faust Family
Flower Sponsor: Pastor Tim & Family
Breakfast Sponsor: Available
Kitchen: Tina Longan
Offering Counters: J. Van Horn, D. Spear

November Usher/Greeters: Bill & Lisa Bernard, Louise Litzy, Joanna Johnson, Tracy Baylor, Tyler & Emma Hott, Frank Wetzel, Kim Ritter, Chris Warner

As worship began, people were still finding seats and settling in. The children's choir was preparing to sing with the chancel choir, and the sanctuary was filled with the beautiful movement of ministry happening all around us. For the Children's Moment and the Reception of New Members, people shifted, turned sideways, and made room so that everyone could participate.

The nursery and toddler rooms were full as well, requiring additional help. Then came lunch. With every table set, we still had only eight unused seats—and that included several children eating together in their Sunday School space. Families found places wherever they could, moving carefully throughout the room, laughing, carrying-on conversations and sharing the joyful challenge of being together in a full house. And what a beautiful challenge it was.

The Farm gives us considerably more space than we had at High Street, yet on Sunday, we found ourselves experiencing that same wonderful closeness. Even our kitchen is smaller than the one we had before, offering its own unique opportunities for cooperation, creativity and perhaps a little patience!

But in the middle of the bustle, there was laughter. There was joy. There was the delightful, holy craziness that happens when people gather and make room for one another.

On Sunday, we welcomed eleven new members and two new associate members into our faith family. They came from Williamsport, Milton, Selinsgrove, Lewisburg, and Easton. It is a beautiful reminder that people are finding their way to The Farm—not because we have discovered a secret formula or because any one person has made it happen, but because God continues to draw people toward this safe, sacred, and welcoming community through each of us. Here, people discover they can belong while they continue growing in faith. They are finding companions for the journey and joining a community that seeks to make a difference with our neighbors through love, service, and care. And making that difference, I believe is making a difference in us all the same.

When people ask how so many come to The Farm, the truest answer is that we simply try to remain open, loving, and willing to welcome people wherever they are on their faith journey. The rest belongs to the Holy One.

So thank you—for making room, for sharing tables, for welcoming children, for helping visitors find their way, for serving meals, caring for one another, and offering the many gifts that allow us to be the church together. The warmth people

experience here is not the work of one person. It is the gift of an entire faith family. It is found in the chair beside you, the table you help set, the hand you offer, the conversation you share, and the neighbor you serve.

May God continue to use Saint Paul's @ The Farm in beautiful and unexpected ways. It takes a village to make a community of faith—and in our case, it takes a Farm. Thank you for helping us live, laugh, worship, and serve together and above all, be the church.

With gratitude and love, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

A Bigger Table, A Growing Family. Last Sunday, our faith family officially grew by twelve—not simply in number, but in stories, relationships, laughter, questions, gifts, and love. We welcomed 10 full members and two associate members, and we are so grateful for the ways God has led each of them to Saint Paul's @ The Farm.

Please join us in welcoming:

Traci Eschbach: Traci is a beautiful example of bravery, hope, and joy among us. She makes every effort to be part of Saint Paul's whenever possible, traveling from Easton to visit family and worship with us. Traci first found Saint Paul's more than four years ago when she joined her family for the celebration of her grandfather's life. Since then, we have been privileged to walk alongside her through serious health challenges and seasons of life-affirming hope. We are honored to call Traci family and officially welcome her home to Saint Paul's.

Jessica and Scott Mathias: Jessica grew up at Saint Paul's, while Scott grew up in Montoursville Presbyterian Church. Together, they have found their way home here again and now make the trip from Williamsport to worship with us most weeks. Both work for UPMC Williamsport, and they enjoy spending time in Oregon. We are grateful that Saint Paul's continues to be a place of belonging for them.

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Baby Elliott
Don Emory
Patti Faux
Rebecca Foote
Sharon Foust
Sherri Gill
Ellie Guerrero
Ginny Hughes
Darryl Kline
Shelly Sholley
Unspoken Requests

The Bastian Family - Susan, Chad, Chloe, and Junior: This family joins us from Milton. Because of Chad and Chad Jr.'s work schedules, they are not always able to be with us on Sunday mornings, but Susan and Chloe have become familiar and joyful faces over the past several months. Many of you have also already met Susan as our incoming Administrative Assistant and as a member of the Chancel Choir. We are delighted to welcome this family into the life of Saint Paul's.

Stephanie, Josh, Oliver, and Elijah Phelps: The Phelps family comes to us from Selinsgrove. Stephanie was searching online for a faith community that would offer understanding, support, and genuine welcome for families with children with special needs. She found Saint Paul's, came to visit, and discovered what so many others have found here: a place where people can come as they are and grow together in love.

Mary Rolinc: Mary lives just next door at Buffalo Valley and found her way to Saint Paul's through what has become one of our favorite stories—a chance meeting with Ron and Kris Wenning in the Wendy's parking lot. Mary was looking for a safe and sacred home, and she has found one among us. She has joined Christian formation opportunities and participates whenever she is able. We are so glad she is here.

Rose Mabus: Rose, Mary's daughter, was unable to be present for Sunday's welcome, but she has also chosen to become part of the Saint Paul's family. Recently widowed, Mary spends late spring through fall in this area and late fall through spring in Arizona. Seeing the love and welcome her mother discovered here, Rose recognized that this, too, could be a spiritual home for her.

Membership here is not about earning a place at the table. The table was already set. It is simply one way people publicly say, "This is a community I want to walk with. These are people with whom I want to worship, grow, serve, and share life." So, if you have not yet had the opportunity, please take time to greet our newest members. Learn their stories. Share a little of yours. Help them find their way around. Offer a seat, a conversation, or an invitation to join you. Together, we continue to discover the good news that we are beloved children of God—and that there is always room for one more at the table.

Our next New Member Class will be held on Sunday, December 27, during worship. If you would like to learn more about what membership means at Saint Paul's, please speak with Pastor Tim or contact the church office. There is no pressure and no expectation—only an invitation to conversation, exploration, and deeper connection. We will always be glad to welcome you home.

A Note of Correction: 2027 Church Office Hours: Please note a correction to the 2027 church office hours published in last week's annual Fall Report:

Monday and Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Our Administrative Assistant, Susan Bastian, will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Our Church Ministries Coordinator, Nicole Cuer, will be in the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

While Susan's and Nicole's responsibilities will naturally overlap in some areas, each will have a primary focus. Susan will oversee church administration, and the day-to-day office needs of the congregation. Nicole will help maintain our social media presence, assist with grant research and writing, support both the church and Brookpark Farm Corporation, respond to mission and outreach-related inquiries, welcome visitors to The Farm and support our faith formation teams.

Together, Susan and Nicole will form a caring and capable team, helping ensure that Saint Paul's @ The Farm remains a welcoming, safe, and sacred place for all who enter our doors. We are grateful for the gifts each brings to this ministry and look forward to the many ways they will serve our church and wider community together.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Chris Heckman - 11/20
Louise Litzy - 11/21
Robert Rufer - 11/21
Megan Lewis - 11/22
John Parrish - 11/25
Donna Spear - 11/25
Jack Ward - 11/25
Pat Bender - 11/27
Gary Bennett - 11/27
Molly Faust - 11/28
Steve Rowe - 11/29



Happy Anniversary to ...

Robin & Steve Brown - 11/24
Bill & Sherri Gill - 11/29

Grateful Hearts & Faithful Stewardship: Notes on Tithes, Offerings and Year-End Giving

As we draw closer to the end of the year, we want to share a few practical notes, gentle reminders, and helpful details regarding tithes, offerings, giving records and end-of-year contributions. First and foremost, we share these notes with deep gratitude. Everything we do together at Saint Paul's @ The Farm is made possible through the shared gifts, faithfulness, and generosity of this community.

Where Your Gifts Go: The Backbone of Our Shared Ministry. When you give your tithes and offerings to Saint Paul's, you are providing the essential operational backbone that allows our ministry to happen week in and week out. Operational giving covers the everyday foundations of church life—staff payroll, building rent, utilities, property upkeep and insurance. These are the faithful resources that keep the lights on, the heat running, our sanctuary warm and welcoming, and our doors wide open to all people.

We believe that faithful stewardship always looks outward. Anything received beyond what is needed for our basic operations directly serves our neighbors. As a faith community, we maintain a steadfast commitment that at least a full tithe (10%) goes right back out into the community. Your tithes and offerings make a difference.

Because of your generous spirits with your gifts, our giving to local missional outreach typically averages out to 17-20% of our Operational budget, with an additional 4-5% dedicated to benevolence for the wider church's worldwide missional work. When you give here, you are directly feeding families, sheltering neighbors, supporting local partners, and sharing God's love across our region and around the world.

Regarding 2026 Tax Deductions. It has been brought to our attention that for the 2026 tax year only, current tax codes include a charitable write-off provision of up to $1,000 for individuals and $2,000 for married couples filing jointly. We share this as information for your awareness. We recognize and celebrate that families approach giving and taxes in different ways. Some choose to claim their charitable gifts on their annual tax returns, while others prefer not to do so out of personal conviction or their understanding of the relationship between faith and public funds. Whatever choice is right for you and your household, we honor and respect it completely.

*(*Please note: This information is shared solely for your general awareness and does not constitute tax, legal, or financial advice. We always encourage you to consult with a qualified tax professional regarding your specific financial situation and filing decisions.)*

Helpful Reminders for Giving Records & Year-End Deadlines: To help our financial counters and office staff keep accurate records, please keep the following details in mind:

- **Cash Contributions & Envelopes:** If you give using cash inside an offering envelope and would like that contribution included on your year-end giving statement, please be sure to write your full name clearly on the envelope. When cash is placed in an envelope without a name, our counting team has no way to identify the giver and cannot credit the gift to your record.

- **Giving Envelopes Available:** If you would like a boxed set of weekly giving envelopes for the coming year, they are available. Please contact the church office, and we will happily prepare a box for you.
- **Deadline for 2026 Giving Statements:** For a contribution to be credited to your 2026 annual giving statement, it must be postmarked, submitted online, or dropped off at the church office prior to midnight on December 31, 2026.
- **Annual Giving Statements:** Individual annual giving statements for 2026 will be completed and sent out by January 31, 2027.

Please note: We Are Here to Help. If you ever have questions about your giving, need assistance with online options, or would like to check on your giving records, please do not hesitate to contact Donna or Susan in the church office. We are always glad to assist you. Thank you for your open hearts, your generous spirits, and the many ways you invest your time, talent, and treasure in this community. Together, we truly get to be the church!

Sweet Sentiments for Our Fresh Express Friends. Please help us give a little sweet sentiment to our Fresh Express guests during the holidays this year. At our Tuesday, December 22, food distribution, we will give each family a holiday card and a little baggie of Hershey Kisses. If you would like to help in this way, please drop off Hershey kisses to the church by Sunday, December 13, so that we can assemble this special treat for our last distribution in 2026 on December 22.



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. From 10 to 10:25, please enjoy breakfast, coffee, and fellowship then worship begins at 10:30. On the first Sunday of each month, we celebrate ***Holy Communion*** together. And, monthly on the 2nd Sunday, we enjoy ***Family Night*** beginning at 5 p.m. On the ***3rd Sunday of each month***, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together.

Christian Formation @ The Farm. Faith Connections classes for all ages run from 9 to 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings, with Miss Colleen and Miss Krysta leading our children and Nicole and Dale Cuer offering a Prayer Workshop for adults. Additionally, following the "Time with Our Children," during worship, kiddos aged 3 to 2nd grade head back to the classroom for "***Children's Church***" and return to worship following Pastor Tim's sermon.

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 British Baking Company right here at Brookpark Farm or from the Farmer's Market across the bridge or bring your own and join Pastor Tim. Then on Wednesday evenings, we offer ***Wednesday Evening Interactive***, a seasonal book/bible study. On the 1st and 3rd 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 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.

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 ~ 11/15/26
Attendance: 187 (3 Visitors)
LIVE Attendance: 1,089
Virtual Reach: 12,867
Christian Education: 57

Plate Giving:	2,579.00
Loose Plate:	386.00
Online Giving:	2,296.72
Operational Total:	5,261.72
Restricted Giving:	1465.50
Total Giving:	6,727.22

Music and Movement @ 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 5:30 to 6:30 and plays for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. ***The children practice*** from 9:45 to 10:05 each Sunday and bless our worship time twice a month with their selections of music and movement. This group is led by Sharon Styer and Ashley Rosboschil.

Serving @ The Farm. Mission and Outreach is an integral part of us "being the church" at Saint Paul's. On the 2nd & 4thThursdays 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. The next distribution is Tuesday, November 24. 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 a.m. to noon. See Terri Kremer with questions. Saint Paul's also has a "Little Red Wagon" which you will find on the porch at the entrance to our sanctuary. This is where you can drop off shelf-stable food items to help keep our emergency food pantry stocked. As well, if you wish to donate grocery or gas gift cards to help our neighbors in need, you may drop those in the offering plate during worship. Our current needs include: *Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce, Chef Boyardee cups, instant potatoes (boxes), Canned, boxed, or cup soups, Peanut Butter, Shelf-stable or powdered milk, Cereal, Knorr's Noodle and Sauce Mix, Knorr's Rice Side Dishes, Ramen Noodles.*