

Powered by Grace and Coffee

*a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo*

Dear Faith Family,

This morning I heard an old hymn I haven't thought about in years: "When We All Get To Heaven." I grew up playing it at Camp Meeting, and I still enjoy playing those old hymns at home for my own enjoyment. But now when I hear the words, I think about them differently. My theology has evolved.

The words go like this: "Sing the wondrous love of Jesus, Sing His mercy and His grace; In the mansions bright and blessed He'll prepare for us a place." The refrain is catchy and upbeat: "When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory!" The verses continue—sharing about no more sighing, trusting in God, the prize before us, walking streets of gold.

When I heard it this morning, I smiled. I remember that hymn! But I also thought about what it used to mean to me and what it means to me now.

What it used to mean: I thought of heaven as some later time, someplace other than this life. And that's a beautiful thought—one that many people still hold dear, and I honor that.

However, what it means to me now: I've come to believe we're called to meet Jesus here, where we are today. If we can create heaven right where we are—which is what I believe Jesus came to show us how to do—then the hymn becomes even sweeter.

Think about it: Seeing the face or hearing the story of someone you've been able to connect with, someone you've helped or who has helped you—is that not experiencing God? Realizing an awe-filled moment in the abundance and beauty of nature—is that not like walking on streets of gold?

When we share stories with others about how our lives have been impacted, when we come through something tough and find solace in one another—that's heaven breaking through. When days are hard and at the end of the day we have the gift of a warm meal and a safe place to lay our heads—that is something to give thanks for and rejoice in.

Christian author Henri Nouwen wrote about offering peace, bringing a smile to someone's face, offering words of healing. When we let go of anger and resentment, when we forgive and love—are these not the things that bring us to heaven here on earth? And yet, are these not the things we too often dismiss or forget in the midst of a messy or stressful day? And yet, now an old familiar hymn can bring me back to the reality of what I am called to do, who I am called to be.

I still love the old hymns I grew up with. I just look at them a little differently now. And I wonder: isn't this what Jesus meant when he said, "Don't worry about tomorrow"?

In Matthew's Gospel, chapter 6, verses 25 to 34, Jesus gives instructions about why not to worry. He says: "Instead, desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, stop worrying about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself."

My faith continues to grow and evolve as I learn more about God and Christ in the here and now. And here's where I've landed: I don't need to worry about how I'm going to get to some ethereal heaven in the future. I need to be more concerned about today—the people I impact, the lives I touch, showing God's grace and love, learning how the Holy Spirit leads me.

When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be—when we create heaven here on earth for ourselves and those around us, what a day that will be!

Make it a great heaven-creating day! #seeu@TheFarm

*Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim*



# The Farm Report

## 🎵 TEAM SAINT PAUL'S SPOTLIGHT

**Patty Wagner: Sharing 30+ Years of Wisdom!** We are absolutely thrilled for Patty Wagner as she steps into the classroom this spring semester as an adjunct professor in the Susquehanna University Music Department! Patty will be teaching Choral Methods—and the students have NO IDEA how blessed they are. With over 30 years of teaching experience, Patty is bringing her incredible knowledge, passion, and heart back to the classroom. We can't wait to hear how she inspires the next generation of musicians. Congratulations, Patty! We're so proud of you!!!



**Sharon & Kevin: Rose Bowl Parade Champions!** Talk about making waves! Sharon and Kevin recently returned from Pasadena, California, where they participated in the iconic Rose Bowl Parade—and they brought the music with them! Kevin marched with the Band Director's Marching Band (his second time being invited—way to go!), while Sharon made her Rose Bowl debut with both the Marching Band AND the Concert Band. They spent an incredible weekend celebrating music with their peers, and we are so excited for them! Sharon, Kevin—you represented Team Saint Paul's beautifully. We aren't the same when you're not here, and we're even prouder when you're out there shining! 🌟

### Please Pray for

Laurie & Kris Anderson  
Allen Basom  
Ben Battenburg  
Linda Beaver  
Colleen Brandt  
Engle Family  
Traci Eschbach  
Robin Huffman  
Family of Leona Kemmerer  
Dottie Leeser  
Ed & Eileen Prowant  
The Uber Family  
Weber/Hockenbrock Family  
Barclay Wilson  
Dave & Barb Wagner  
Tommy Ward  
Russ & Donna Wynn  
Unspoken Requests

### Family Night Fun and a Bit of Meditation.

Saint Paul's Family Night on January 11 included a yummy potluck dinner, a delicious hot cocoa bar, and a fun "paper quilt block" winter craft which included the following meditation: A quilt is made from pieces of various shapes, sizes, and patterns that are stitched together; reflecting the idea that God's people are different but united. From 1 Corinthians 12:12-14: Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. We were all baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. Certainly, the body isn't one part but many. No matter age, gender, nationality, circumstances, or personality, I am a vital member of the body of Christ. Traditionally, quilts make good use of small or left-over fabric pieces, so that nothing is wasted. So too, we may feel small, not up to the task, not useful on our own. But by working together, our unified efforts support and amplify the strength and beauty of any one person. Won't you join us for our next "Family Night" for all ages on February 8 and our annual "Superbowl Party" beginning at 5 p.m.



**Socially Acceptable Behavior.** Improve your social media positive feed by liking us, following us, and checking us out regularly on Facebook or Instagram. Sergio Fasnacht has begun regular posts on our public page, *Saint Paul's at The Farm a UCC Faith Community*, along with a beautiful video each week. Like and share, help spread the word about your faith home, love abides, love abounds, love leads us home.



### The Church office is closed



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 19, 2026



This is what God's kingdom is like: a bunch of outcasts and oddballs gathered at a table, not because they are rich or worthy or good, but because they are hungry, because they said yes. And there's always room for more.  
- Rachel Held Evans

**Open to All.** Like our communion table, membership in this faith community is open to all. If you are interested in official membership or just have questions, please reach out to the church office or Pastor Tim directly. Over the next few weeks Pastor Tim will be available in Fellowship Hall just before and during the breakfast hour for informal conversations and questions. Our next new member Sunday is Sunday, February 8, during worship.

**Please join us Sunday, February 22, 2026** as we celebrate all that we got to do in 2025. We will recognize our volunteers and staff as we celebrate our year in review Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place immediately following worship and there will be cake. All are invited. #seeyou@TheFarm

## **Something for Everyone Sunday Mornings @ 9.**

Every Sunday morning from 9 to 10 a.m., we offer learning, music, and fellowship for all ages. Grab your coffee and find your place:

**Faith Connection Classes (9-10 a.m.):** Explorers (Pre-K through 3rd Grade) - Scripture-based lessons and activities, Pathfinders (4th through 8th Grade) - Exploring the day's Scripture together; Travelers (9th Grade through Age 99) - Interactive Scripture study and theological conversation led by Dale & Nicole Cuer.

**Choirs:** Chancel Choir (9-10 a.m.) - Youth and adults, all voices welcome High School and on; Children's Music, Movement & Arts (9:40-10 a.m.) - For Elementary and Middle School ages.

**Breakfast at 10 a.m.,** gather for a light continental breakfast, with coffee, and fellowship before worship begins at 10:30.

## *Celebrations*

Happy Birthday to ...

Brent Sechrist - 1/16	Olivia Mahon - 2/3
Val Ritter - 1/22	April Masker - 2/4
Peggy Emory - 1/23	Christine Parker - 2/4
Noah Kozick - 1/24	
Cory Mahon - 1/24	Happy Anniversary to ...
Earl Fisher - 1/28	Ed & Eileen Prowant - 1/21

## *Upcoming Worship*

January 18 ~ 2nd Sunday following Epiphany  
"Come. See. Become."

Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42

Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard

Lector: Cyndy Kister

Acolyte: Lucy Rosboschil

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Breakfast Sponsor: Kate & Art Schaeffer

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: J. Van Horn, D. Spear

January 25 ~ 3rd Sunday following Epiphany  
"Follow Me"

Psalm 27:1, 4-9; Luke 1:39-56

Worship Leader: Jen Arnold

Lector: Doug Richard

Acolyte: Cato Kazibwe

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Breakfast Sponsor: Cindy Myers & Terri Kremer

Flower Sponsor: Sharon Foust & Shelly Sholley

Offering Counter: A. Mahon, D. Spear

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

## **Sunday Evening, February 15 Dinner at 5:00 ~ Talent at 6:00**

**You are invited to come aboard for a  
Night of Talented Adventure ...**

**... and our annual  
Saint Paul's  
@ The Farm Delicious  
Spaghetti and Meatballs  
Dinner!**



If you've got talent to share, please reach out asap to Gloria Lehman, who's preparing the program to set sail! Come and find out what's ALL ABOARD!

# 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. This week’s picture shows a few of our kiddos in the nursery during worship. Our nursery is staffed from 9. to noon each Sunday and the service is streamed on the TV, too!



## 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.

## Stewardship

Gift & Offerings ~

1/4/26

“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: 146 (4 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 1,035

Virtual Reach: 12,468

Christian Education: 62

Plate Giving: 2,017.00

Loose Plate: 206.00

Online Giving: 1,378.79

Operational Total: 3,601.79

Restricted Giving: 100.00

Total Giving: 3,701.79

**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 January 8 & 22. 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.



**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. 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. (Beginning again on January 7). 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.