



Saint Paul's Possibilities

August 21, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Here we go again.

I don't know about you, but there's a particular moment every summer when I walk into a store for sunscreen or flip-flops and instead find myself staring down an aisle of notebooks, backpacks, and pencil pouches. Back-to-school season, arriving right on the heels of our Fourth of July cookouts. And I'll admit—it makes me chuckle every time. We haven't even finished the fireworks, and somewhere a display of Halloween candy is already being restocked.

From there, it's a sprint. Halloween gives way to Christmas trees before Thanksgiving turkey is even carved. Christmas barely gets put away before Valentine's hearts appear, and by the time January thaws, Easter eggs are sitting on the very same shelf that held candy canes weeks before. The retail calendar doesn't walk through the seasons—it runs.

I used to defend this. I reasoned that stores have to get ahead of things, because if we wait to shop until we're "ready" to decorate, well, the good stuff is gone. And there's some truth in that. But I've come to realize something else, something a little more important than shelf space and shopping deadlines.

Here's my confession: I love this time of year. I love it in a big, unapologetic way. Falling leaves, football, hayrides, the scent of woodsmoke drifting from a chimney—it's basically my favorite four months of the whole year, and I get genuinely excited watching autumn's arrival. So, when I see those first signs on store shelves, some part of my heart does a little happy dance. Guilty as charged. And most of you who know me, know this about me.

But here's the thing I keep coming back to: the retailers don't control my attention. My neighbors decorating early for Christmas don't determine my focus, either. That's on me. That's on all of us. And we should respect that in one another.

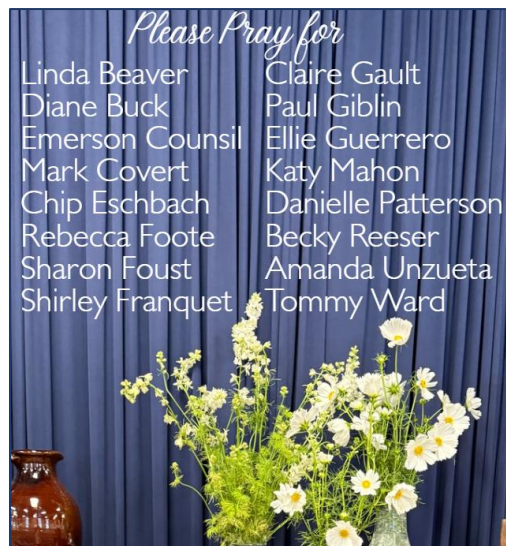
It's tempting to blame outside forces for pulling us out of the present moment—"well, the stores did it," or "the neighbors already have their lights up." But our attention, our focus, our presence in this exact day we're given—that belongs to us. Nobody else gets to hijack it unless we let them.

Jesus said something remarkably relevant to all of this in Matthew 6:34: *"Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."* He wasn't talking about pumpkin displays, obviously, but the wisdom holds. Jesus reminds us that worrying about what's next doesn't add a single moment to our lives—it just steals our attention from what's right in front of us.

He points to birds who don't stockpile anxiety about their next meal, and to flowers that bloom fully without fretting over next season's forecast. He reminds us of manna in the wilderness—enough for each day, no more, no less, trusting God to provide again tomorrow. And in his own ministry, Jesus modeled this beautifully: he stopped for the person in front of him. He didn't rush past someone in need because he had somewhere else to be next week. Love happens in the present tense.

Did Jesus know what was coming? I believe he did. And yet he never let that knowledge steal his presence with the people right in front of him.

So, here's my invitation to all of us as we head into these next few glorious, hectic, seasonally confused months: let's stay present. Let's enjoy what's happening now—whether that's one last summer cookout, back-to-school photos, or



the first cool evening that finally lets you open the windows. And if you want to put your fall wreath up in August because it makes you smile? Do it. If your neighbor strings up Christmas lights before Halloween candy is even off the shelves, let them enjoy their joy without it stealing yours.

We can look forward with hope without abandoning where we stand. We can anticipate the seasons ahead while still soaking in the beauty of today—because today has beauty entirely its own, given freely by a God who provides just enough, right on time, every single day.

I'll be doing my best to practice this alongside you. It doesn't mean I won't take some quiet time to plan ahead, but I will seek to stay focused on and keep soaking up the beauty in front of me, that is being present with you all. Will you join me?

Thanks be to God, who meets us here, now, in this very day.

In gratitude and grace, Pastor Tim

The Farm Report



Celebrating New Members at @ The Farm. On Sunday, August 30, we will recognize and celebrate new members here at Saint Paul's @ The Farm, UCC. While membership is never required, we believe it's important to ask—because you matter to us, and your commitment to this faith community matters. From the moment visitors walk through our doors, they are family. That hasn't changed and never will. Membership simply offers a way to formally affirm your place here and to participate in the decisions that shape our life together. It's a beautiful way of saying, "Yes, I choose to be part of this journey." If you feel called to take this step, we offer two paths. You may join us publicly during worship on August 30, at 10:30 a.m., where you'll be welcomed by our entire faith family. During the service, our youth, teens, adults, and seniors will each ask you a question—a gentle reminder that we are all on this sacred journey together. You'll be asked first and foremost to commit to walking in Jesus' footsteps with our community, to stand against justice and love without reservation. And then you will be asked to love and support Saint Paul's with your time, your talents, and your resources. Or, if you prefer, we can arrange a private conversation with Pastor Tim to mark your membership in a way that feels right for you. If you're leaning toward joining us on August 30, please let Pastor Tim know. Just know this: whether you choose membership or not, your presence here is cherished. You belong here. Your decision doesn't change that.

2nd Annual Barn Yard Sale! It's time to start planning for our 2nd barn yard sale here at the farm! In conjunction with our annual soup, bake, and craft sale for missions in early November, our barn yard sale is an opportunity to donate your gently-used household items, furniture, tools, etc. (no clothing, please). For now, check in with Cyndy Kister (570-768-0977) with questions and to let her know you would like to help with the sale. And watch for dates and times to start bringing your donated items to the farm.



Talent Surveys. Each year in late summer/early fall, we ask you to consider the ways in which you share your talents in service, fellowship, worship, and Christian formation with your faith community. Next Sunday, August 30, you will find a newly refreshed "talent survey" in your bulletin. We ask you to kindly take a moment to complete the survey and return it to the welcome desk before leaving church. Thank you for all the ways you support the works of Saint Paul's.

Wednesday Interactive Returns—A Truly Interactive Experience. Wednesday, September 2, at 6:30 p.m., we're excited to welcome you back to Wednesday Interactive, our immersive study group designed to deepen your roots, strengthen relationships, and draw closer to the Holy. Our first gathering of the season will begin with a check-in and conversation about our plans for the fall ahead. Whether you're joining us for the first time or returning from our spring gatherings, there's something here for everyone—a space to grow, to connect, and to encounter God's presence together. Come as you are. Come ready to engage. Come expecting beautiful moments of grace and genuine community. We look forward to seeing you there.



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 for the Fall:

- **Soul Sisters:** August 25, at noon, Union Cellars. Women of all ages welcome for friendship and connection!
- **The Forge:** A new men's group for relationship building and brotherhood, facilitated by Drew Faust. Kickoff cookout on September 11, 6:30 p.m. at The Farm.
- **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:** A reflective study on experiencing the Holy. Fresh look, deeper engagement. Returning September 2, 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Continuing Ways to Gather This Fall:

- **Monday Morning Reflections:** Bible study, 10 a.m.
- **Friends Who Breakfast:** 9:30/9:45 a.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
- **Pastor on the Porch:** Lunch fellowship, 11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays)
- **Family Night:** 5–7 p.m. (Second Sundays) Beginning October 11
- **Word, Wine & Wisdom:** Evening gathering at Union Cellars, 4:30 p.m. (4th Fridays)
- **Friday Night Lights:** August 28, 7 p.m. (Lbg @ Danville; Miff & Milton @ home)
- **Fresh Express:** Open gathering, 1–5 p.m. (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
- **Chancel Choir:** Rehearsals Sunday morning at 9 a.m. (starts on 8/30)
- **Bell Choir:** Rehearsals Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. (starts on 9/2)
- **Children's Choir:** Rehearsal 9:45 a.m. Start date TBA

And These Fall Adventures:

- October 4: **Walk to End Hunger.** A community gathering to raise awareness and funds for families in need in our area.
- October 10: **Hayride & Campfire Evening.** An annual night of fellowship and seasonal joy at a local farm.
- October 11: **Blessing of the Animals.** Bring your beloved pets for a special blessing.
- October 25: **Monstrous Love Sunday.** Trunk or Treat and a Fall Festival atmosphere to welcome friends, family, and neighbors.
- November 7: **Soup, Bake, Craft & Barn Yard Sale for Missions.**

There's a seat at every table. Pick what calls to you—or try something new or be here for every event, because we are not the same when you are not here. Questions? Call Donna or Nicole in the church office, reach out to Lisa Bernard, Chair of the Deacons, or Pastor Tim.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
 Nora Hockenbrock - 8/21
 Mary Beth Johnson - 8/23
 Sue Mahon - 8/24
 Jen Arnold - 8/27
 Evan Armstrong - 8/29

Happy Anniversary to ...
 Louise Litzy & Jenn Van Horn - 8/22
 Heath & Deann Hansum - 8/28



Upcoming Worship

August 23 ~ 13th Sunday after Pentecost
 "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing"
 Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20
 Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart
 Lector: Chris Arnold
 Acolyte: Cato Kazibwe
 Flower Sponsor: Louise Litzy & Jenn Van Horn
 Offering Counters: A. Henry, D. Spear

August 30 ~ 14th Sunday after Pentecost
 "My World is Empty Without You"
 Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
 Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart
 Lector: Mallory Sample
 Acolyte: Delilah Sample
 Flower Sponsor: Tammy Erb, Leaser Family
 Offering Counters: J. Van Horn, D. Spear

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



Mifflinburg Wildcats Backpack Opportunity

You may help by dropping off items at the church office or offering plate by August 28.

Packing date is **Wednesday, September 9, at 11:30 a.m.**

Distribution is **Thursday, September 10.**

To give financially, put "Wildcats" in the memo line.

Questions? Check with Ashley Rosboschil.

600 of each of these items are needed:

Pop Tarts (2-packs)	Canned tuna or chicken
Snack crackers	Individual bags of pretzels or chips
Granola/breakfast bars	Oatmeal packets or cereal
Peanut butter packets	Canned pasta or soup

Thank you for being the church in our community!

Saint Paul's @ The Farm HOMECOMING 2026

BRING A FRIEND
STAY FOR LUNCH

SEPTEMBER 13

FAMILY - WELCOME - TRADITION
LET'S CELEBRATE HOME TOGETHER

.....
**Meatloaf and mashed potatoes
provided. Bring your favorite side
or dessert to share.**



Featured pic: TJ Duncan
takes a leap of faith.

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 for all ages run from 9 to 10 a.m. 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 2nd 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 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.

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 5:30 to 6:30 and plays for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The **Children’s Choir** practices from 9:45 to 10:05 and bless our worship time once a month with their selections.

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 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.

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 August 27, September 10 & 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. Our next cooking date is Monday, August 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. 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. **The current needs for our emergency food pantry are: cans of soup, boxes of mac and cheese, and bottles of juice.**

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 ~ 8/16/26

Attendance: 140 (2 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 840

Virtual Reach: 17,658

Christian Education: 25

Plate Giving: 6,757.00

Loose Plate: 380.00

Online Giving: 1,191.10

Operational Total: 8,328.10

Restricted Giving: 305.00

Total Giving: 8,633.10

Join us at
Saint Paul’s @ the Farm
August 30, 2026 at 3:00 pm.

Celebrate the Ordination of
Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo
with a time of reflection, singing,
worship, and fellowship.

A Farm Style Meal will follow the service.

An offering will be received for the
Fresh Express Food Distribution Program to
purchase meat and chicken for the 250
families we serve bi-weekly.

