



Saint Paul's Possibilities

July 24, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Worship had ended Sunday when most of you headed out to the picnic in the new pavilion. Two men showed up at the door. Someone had met them in the parking lot and brought them to meet me. I had not met them before, that I remembered, although one had been here for the celebration of life of one of his former teachers and mentors—Russ Wynn, Jr.

They were brothers. Their father had just died. They were seeking a place to have his celebration of life service. They didn't need a pastor—their cousin was the pastor they wanted. They needed a space. And they asked the question often asked: "How much would it cost?"

They had come here because their mother had been here for Russ's service with one of her sons. She felt comfortable here. She loved it here. In their words: "She felt love here."

One family came to honor a friend. They experienced love and welcome. And when their family needed a sacred space, they came back—because they had felt loved here. That's it. That's everything.

And this is how we know the intimacy will continue to be here no matter who or how many come through our doors: because that intimacy is built from a place of genuine and authentic feelings and love for each other.

During our cottage meetings, now attended by 50 families, I've heard a bit of tension. People are wanting others to discover what we have here while at the same time being a bit afraid that growth will displace the intimate family feeling. I can acknowledge where that fear comes from. But here's what I believe: if we want that close, intimate feeling we have as a family to continue, the answer isn't to inhibit growth—it's to relish its organic nature and keep connected one to another. Authentic community actually grows in genuine compassion and grace. The solution isn't limiting the number who come through the door. It's staying rooted in who we are and welcoming all who come through the door to a sacred, safe space.

And the evidence is already here. This summer we've had close to 50 visitors, and many have returned. We've experienced a summer unlike any before, with attendance often rising above the average from winter and spring. When people talk in our cottage meetings about how they got to Saint Paul's and "Why Saint Paul's," we often hear the same answer: word of mouth is what brings them here, and the "why" is the authentic love they feel as a part of this community of faith.

Even with this past weekend and the wonderful feeling of all that went into making Sunday so special, there's no letdown. We aren't checking off a proverbial box, ok, that's done now what's next. We are present in the moments we're in and ready to move forward by being open to the Holy's presence and movement among us. This week, by the time you read this, we'll have served some 250 families with Fresh Express and begin planning for 600 backpacks to fill for the Mifflinburg School District. In a week and a half, we have our annual baseball outing. A few weeks later, we'll celebrate with our back-to-school swim and chicken barbecue and then celebrate a week later with an infant baptism. Then at the end of the month, we'll celebrate "Peace" weekend with music on the porch Saturday evening, and Sunday morning we'll welcome new members. Sunday afternoon is my ordination. Soon after comes Homecoming Worship, the return of our choirs, and a fall season filled with great adventures—all the time open to new directions the Holy is leading us.

Please Pray for

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



And what are we protecting? What are we offering? This: the overwhelming joy I experienced this past Sunday afternoon during our inaugural picnic in the pavilion. The feeling was akin to an out-of-body experience which I can only attribute to the Holy Spirit's presence. There was so much joy and laughter and a sense of relief—"ah, this space that God has created is ours to care for and use to God's glory"—and that's exactly what it felt like was happening.

Chaplain Kate told me that she and Art felt like they were "tiptoeing on air" when they left the gathering. I can relate. It all felt like being swept up in something much bigger than our individual selves. The smiles, the joy, the fellowship—it all just felt Holy.

I share this because I feel this repeatedly here at Saint Paul's. While this past Sunday feels ever stronger, there is rarely a day that goes by here that I don't feel the presence of the Holy in and around this place.

Every time we gather—no matter the occasion, a celebration of life, a wedding, a baptism—this is the feeling we need to live in this space: a feeling of love and welcome, a feeling of acknowledging the presence of the Holy. For this is God's house, God's space, and we get the privilege to be caretakers of it.

So, to you all—the leadership and staff of this amazing community we get to create together—to every member and friend who welcomes another or shares our story, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your presence, your support with your time, your talents, and your gifts. Thank you for being the church in the midst of all the chaos of life. For together, we get to do this.

Be here whenever you can. Be an active part of all that you can. Enjoy and live into life here—not because it checks a box, but because it means something deep. Be open to being the church. Everything we do has meaning. It's who we are. It is who I truly believe we are called to be. And I'm grateful to be on this journey with you all.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

A Weekend to Celebrate Peace. Mark your calendars—something special is coming to The Farm! August 28-30 will be a weekend to remember, filled with music, faith, community and the celebration of peace.

Friday, August 28 | Word, Wine & Wisdom - Join us for an intimate evening of conversation, reflection, and fellowship as we prepare our hearts for the weekend ahead.

Saturday, August 29 | Music on the Porch for Peace - We're joining a global movement! Music on the Porch is an international celebration reviving a tradition when porch music was a cherished weekly Sunday afternoon ritual. This year, we'll gather to play music together—not just for the joy of it, but as a faith community standing up for world peace. We'll have special locally famous musical guests, and we'll also dedicate our new Peace Pole, a beautiful symbol of our commitment to peace in our congregation and our world.

Sunday, August 30 | New Members Sunday & Pastor Tim's Ordination Celebration - At 10:30 a.m., we celebrate new members joining our faith family during worship. Then, at 3 p.m., we gather for a special service celebrating Pastor Tim's Full Ordination into the United Church of Christ, followed by a reception of gratitude and joy.

Everyone is invited. Whether you're a longtime member or visiting for the first time, there's a place for you, always. Come celebrate peace, music, community, and the faithful leadership that guides us all. We hope to see you here @ The Farm.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Frank Wetzel - 7/24

Bill Gill - 7/25

Mike Haven - 7/26

Al Henry - 7/26

Justin Kozick - 7/27

Bryleigh Gill - 7/28

McNeil Parker - 7/28

Matthew Oetjens - 7/29

Scott Baylor - 7/31

Thomas Wagner - 7/31



Happy Anniversary to ...

Laurie & Kris Anderson - 7/25

Mallory & Brent Sample - 7/26

Take Me Out to the Ballgame! NEXT SUNDAY, August 2 at 4:05 p.m., our church family is heading to Williamsport to watch the Crosscutters take on the Trenton Thunder. How to Join: It is free! Tickets are already purchased. We're organizing a carpool leaving the church at 2:45 p.m. (plenty of time to grab snacks and settle in before first pitch). Want to come along? Contact the church office or sign up this Sunday. Let's make it an evening to remember.



Honor Someone Special with Flowers. Would you like to sponsor flowers for worship in honor, memory, or celebration of someone special? We have several weekends open throughout the remainder of summer and fall. It's a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a milestone, or simply brighten our worship space. To sponsor flowers: Visit our website and click the "Sign-up" link near the bottom of our website homepage or call the church office. We'll order the flowers for you, and your honorarium will be placed in the weekly bulletin.

Join Us Sunday, August 30, No, Really, Join Us. This is your invitation. If you've been thinking about membership, or if you know someone ready to take this step, this is your Sunday. We'll 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.



Before the First Bell Rings! Yes, it's time to think ahead—school starts the week of August 24. But before the rush begins, we're gathering for our annual Back-to-School Chicken Barbecue & Swim. Saturday, August 15 at 4 p.m. At the home of the Gill family. Everyone welcome. All ages. Every family. Whether you have kids heading into kindergarten or college, whether you're a longtime member or brand new to Saint Paul's—there's a place for you. What to bring: a side dish to share and maybe an extra lawn chair. The chicken is provided (and it's really good, Mama Gill's recipe), and together we make a feast. Mark your calendars now: Saturday, August 15 at 4 p.m. This is the perfect way to send our kids back to school—surrounded by community, laughter, and love. We can't wait to see you there!

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** to keep on your radar:

- 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

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



On the Journey Together ~ Summer @ The Farm



Join Pastor Tim 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 8

*HYPOTHESIS: Good deeds will get me where I want to go.
God's TRUTH: We experience JOY when we trust God and put Jesus first.*

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 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.

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 ~ 7/19/26
Attendance: 147 (5 visitors)
LIVE Attendance: 1,212
Virtual Reach: 17,196
Christian Education: 27

Plate Giving: 1,869.00
Loose Plate: 266.00
Online Giving: 1,613.92
Operational Total: 3,748.92
Restricted Giving: 742.00
Total Giving: 4,490.92

Pics from last week's pavilion dedication and picnic ...

Shelly Sholley manning the scrumptious hotdogs on the grill. Pastor Tim blessing the new space, and a rare picture of Tina Longan sitting still. The Richard family, small and big, at one of the new kid-sized picnic tables.



Upcoming Worship

July 26 ~ 9th Sunday after Pentecost
"For Once in My Life" ~ Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52
Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard ~ Lector: Kate Schaeffer
Acolyte: Rhett Sample ~ Flower Sponsor: Frank Wetzel
Counters: E. Fisher, D. Spear

August 2 ~ 10th Sunday after Pentecost
"I'll Be There" ~ Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-23
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

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