



# Saint Paul's Possibilities

March 6, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

*a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo*

Dear Faith Family,

I got a funny meme this week with the words: "We used to eat crackers, cheese cubes and pepperoni on a paper plate. Now it's charcuterie and it's served on a reclaimed barn door." I laughed out loud. We like our accessories and style, don't we? And who knew when our grandfathers were picking apples off the tree on the farm, cutting them up with his pocketknife and setting them out on a piece of barnwood he picked up off the ground that he was ahead of his time?

There are times when having things become so important and valuable to us that we miss the reality of appreciating the moment. We get to come to church every week, share in a meal with family and friends and then six years ago next week, even that changed in the blink of an eye, and it would be a year before we got to even think about gathering again. But it's not just style and things that distract us. When crisis hits, we get distracted again—this time from love, drawn instead into fear and division. Life can turn in an instant.

And it keeps turning. This past week our world took another turn when the news came that there were bombs being dropped on Iran. Families here in our church with other family in the middle East region have been holding their proverbial breath until they knew or heard that loved ones were out of the area safely after hearing how missiles had been exploding overhead as they took shelter under stairwells holding their children close. And the fact that there was no word from sons and grandsons of other military members who are certainly in harm's way serving their country.

There are also the diagnoses that come without warning. The sudden illnesses. The losses of friends. The pain that can't be scheduled or prepared for.

Here's what I've noticed: In moments like these, our natural responses kick in. We fear. We divide—choosing sides, blaming, defending ourselves. We get angry. We retreat into our own opinions as if having the right answer will somehow protect us. And for a while, those responses feel necessary. They feel like survival.

But they don't rescue us. They don't meet our deepest need. In fact, they only deepen the loneliness and above it all, they certainly don't feel sacred.

What rescues us is something simpler and more powerful: love. The love of God. The love of one another.

I was reminded this week of a promise we find in both Deuteronomy and John's Gospel: "God's unconditional love will have the last word." Always. Not sometimes. Not if we're good enough or believe the right things. Always.

And I thought of my friend—a theologian at 96, after almost 70 years of preaching and teaching. When he was dying, we asked him: Tell us everything you know. And his response was simply: "*The only thing I know is that God is love.*" God. Is. Love.

That's not naive. That's not ignoring the pain or the danger or the very real crises we're facing right now. That's faith. That's recognizing that our fears and divisions are real, but they're not the final word. Love is.

So, I'm writing this week not with some earth-shattering news or story, but to remind us: our opinions and fears, our disagreements and divisions—these will not rescue us. But our love for one another will. When you know someone loves you, you can face anything. When you belong to a community that shows up for you,

you're not alone in the darkness. When you remember that God's love is unconditional and will have the last word, you can breathe.

May your days be filled with love. It won't replace all the other stuff—the pain, the fear, the uncertainty. But it will give you assurance that there is nothing you cannot get through with those who love you. And with the God who will never stop loving you.

*Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim*

## The Farm Report



**It's Time for Colorful, Beautiful Spring Flowers!** Orders begin this Sunday, March 8, for Easter Flowers which will adorn our Sanctuary on Easter morning. You will find a yellow order form in this week's bulletin or you may order online with the link on our church website homepage. The last day to place an order is Sunday, March 29, and flowers this year are being purchased through Gloria & Bill Lehman's Flower Tent ... **tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, and white lillies for \$10 per six inch pot and hydrangea for \$20.**

**Our Love Offering to the World.** If you haven't already, grab your coin boxes and let's collect change to change the world with our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) annual collection! Toss in your extra change through Palm Sunday when the boxes will be collected during worship. Thank you for helping us help our neighbors throughout the world--flood victims who are fed from these funds, victims of wild fires who may need shelter or clothes, ones who don't have clean drinking water and need a well dug--your change can change their lives.

**Falling Upward: A Reflective Lenten Book Study.** Our four-week Lenten book study has begun as we journey together through Richard Rohr's insights on how heartbreak, disappointment, and failure aren't obstacles to spiritual growth—they're gateways to it. It's not too late to join Wednesdays, March 11, 18, and 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room. As Chaplain Kate says, "Father Rohr has a way of writing simply and prophetically, both at the same time and in this century." Come early for tea, bring your beautiful heart, and let's explore this together.

**Coffee / Breakfast Time.** Each Sunday morning from 10 to 10:20, the breakfast and coffee bar are open in Fellowship Hall, and we thank you for helping provide items for breakfast. There are still Sundays available to provide breakfast. You may sponsor a Sunday by yourself or with another family. Here are some suggestions: crockpot oatmeal, mini (and or full size) muffins, fruit, breakfast casseroles, yogurt parfaits, cookies, danish, crackers and cheese ... or be creative! The sign-up sheet is just inside the doors of Fellowship Hall and the dates available begin March 22 through June 7.

### Easter Egg Donations

We are accepting donations of wrapped candy, stickers, or small toys to fill plastic Easter eggs for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday Morning, April 5.

Please drop off any items to container in Fellowship Hall just inside the door, no later than Wednesday, April 1.

Thank you for helping to make this special time for our children extra special!



*Saint Paul's* 

### IRISH LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

YOU ARE INVITED TO WEAR GREEN TO CHURCH ... BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE ... SHEPHERD'S PIE PROVIDED

CONSISTORY HOSTS: JEANIE COUNCIL AND KATHY SHOWERS

**Join Us in Prayer: A Prayer Vigil for Traci Eschbach.** One of our own needs us, and we have the beautiful privilege of surrounding her with prayer. On Thursday, March 12, at 5 a.m., our dear sister Traci Eschbach will undergo surgery to remove a benign tumor from her brain. This will be a long journey—12 to 14 hours—and Traci, her family, and her medical team in Allentown, Pennsylvania, will need our faithful prayers every step of the way.

Many of you will remember that we had the blessing of praying with Traci in person a few weeks ago when her surgery was originally scheduled, before she came down with influenza. Now, as the day approaches, we want to gather our church family once again—this time in a sustained vigil of prayer that will carry Traci through her entire surgery.

Here's how you can be part of this circle of prayer: We're inviting you to sign up for a 30-minute prayer slot anytime between 5 a.m. and 7 p.m. on March 12. Imagine Traci never being without prayer—someone from our church family lifting her up every single moment she's in surgery. What a powerful gift we can give her!

You can pray wherever you feel most comfortable:

- At home in your own sacred space
- In our Sanctuary if you'd like to pray in the quietness of the church or
- In the Gathering Room if you'd prefer

To sign up for your prayer time:

- Call the church office, or
- Use the online sign-up sheet here:

<https://tinyurl.com/SPUCC-prayer-vigil>

Throughout the day, we'll post updates on our church's Facebook page, "Prayers and Love," so you can stay connected and know how to continue praying.

Traci is facing this challenge with courage and faith, and she knows she's not alone. Let's show her just how true that is. Whether you can commit to 30 minutes or simply want to lift her up in prayer throughout the day, your prayers matter. Thank you for being the kind of community that shows up, that cares deeply, and that believes in the power of prayer.

*"The prayer of God's people is powerful and effective."* — James 5:16

## Please Pray for

Mike Armstrong & family  
 Linda Beaver  
 John & Stephanie Bondhus  
 James Bowman  
 Chloe & Matt  
 The Engle Family  
 Traci Eschbach  
 Jayce Heckman  
 Nicole Hoffman  
 Robin Huffman  
 Randy Kessler  
 Chuck Schworer  
 The Seibert Family  
 Amanda Unzueta  
 Tommy Ward  
 Barclay Wilson  
 All service personnel  
 Unrest in our world

## Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...  
 Tamara Dreesse - 3/6  
 Ryan Bierly - 3/7  
 Logan Wenrick - 3/7  
 Nancy Haven - 3/8  
 Ericka Mull - 3/8  
 Kathy Showers - 3/8  
 Brandon Adams - 3/11  
 Amanda Greenawalt - 3/11  
 Gloria Lehman - 3/11  
 Mark Covert - 3/13



## Upcoming Worship

March 8 ~ Third Sunday of Lent  
 "Life's Lost and Found"  
 Luke 15:1-2, 11-32  
 Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe  
 Lector: Ethan Cree  
 Acolyte: Finn Rosboschil  
 Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan  
 Breakfast Sponsor: Rosboschil & Shirk  
 Flower Sponsor: Available  
 Offering Counter: A. Henry, D. Spear

March 15 ~ Fourth Sunday of Lent  
 "There's Always One"  
 Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14; John 13:3-5  
 Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe  
 Lector: Rhonda Newton  
 Acolyte: Bo Gill  
 Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers  
 Breakfast Sponsor: Tammy Erb  
 Flower Sponsor: Pastor Tim & Chip  
 Offering Counter: S. Brown, D. Spear

March Usher/Greeter Team: Earl & Terri Fisher, Sue Mahon, Amy Mahon, Carol Oberlin, Steve Brown, Bob Gift, George Mull, Shelly Sholley

# On the Journey Together



*Miss Nelle, along with all of our sweet acolytes each week, did a beautiful job sharing the light during our centering time in worship this past Sunday.*

**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 **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together.

**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 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.

**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.

## **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 March 12 and 26. 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. We thank you for all the ways in which you serve our neighbors!

## *Stewardship*

Gift & Offerings ~  
3/1/26

“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: 125 (7 visitors)  
LIVE Attendance: 1,050  
Virtual Reach: 14,310  
Christian Education: 51

Plate Giving:	2,147.00
Loose Plate:	213.00
Online Giving:	830.49
Operational Total:	3,190.49
Restricted Giving:	445.00
Total Giving:	3,635.49

 *Saint Paul's @ The Farm*  
**A United Church of Christ Community**  
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Pastor's Email: [PastorTim@spuccfarm.org](mailto:PastorTim@spuccfarm.org)  
Church Website: <https://www.spuccfarm.org>