



Saint Paul's Possibilities

August 28, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

"Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." That old, familiar prayer feels especially fitting this week, because we've designated this as a "peace" weekend here @ The Farm—three days woven together by one simple, holy invitation: to seek peace, and to let it begin with us.

It starts Friday evening with Word, Wine and Wisdom, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Union Cellars, where we'll gather to talk about peace—what it costs, what it asks of us, and where we find it. If you haven't joined us for one of these evenings yet, consider this your invitation. There's something sacred about sharing a glass of wine and an honest conversation with people who are on this journey with you.

Then on Saturday, from 6 to 8 p.m., we'll gather on the porch here @ The Farm for Music on the Porch for Peace. This is part of a beautiful, worldwide movement that began back in 2013 with a simple idea: what if, for one evening, we all just stopped and listened to music together? That's it. No agenda beyond presence. We're honored to welcome local guests K.J. Reimensnyder and Anne Lawrence, along with a few other friends, to play and sing with us. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll simply move into the pavilion—but either way, we'll stop, we'll listen, and we'll let the music remind us what it feels like to simply be together, unhurried and at peace.

And then, Sunday—because shouldn't every Sunday be about seeking and living into peace? This week's Gospel text puts before us the central tension so many of us live with every day: the world tells us to protect ourselves, gather what we can, defeat our enemies, and save our own lives. Jesus tells us something entirely different—that we find life by losing it, that we're called to bless those who curse us, to feed those who oppose us, and to be devoted to one another above ourselves. It's worth sitting with the question: which one of these ways of living actually leads to peace? I don't think it's a hard question to answer, even though it's not an easy way to live.

We'll wrestle with that together in worship, and we'll also get to celebrate something wonderful—we're officially welcoming new members into our faith family this Sunday. If you've been considering joining and haven't yet said anything to me, please know you are warmly invited to come forward with the others. There's room for you.

Then, Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m., I'll be fully ordained into ministry in the United Church of Christ—something I've slow-walked for ten years now. I would be so grateful to have you here. So many of you have restored my hope in the church as the body of Christ, and in ways I don't think you even realize, you've brought real peace to my own life. A meal will follow, because around here, we don't seem to know how to celebrate without breaking bread together.

So yes, it's a full weekend @ The Farm. But underneath all of it—the conversations, the music, the welcome, the ordination—is that same quiet thread: peace, and the invitation to let it begin with each of us.

Last week I asked you to stay present in the moment, and I find myself asking the same thing again this week, because I think it's something we'll need to keep asking of each other. Between back-to-school routines and a calendar full of church events, it would be easy to get swept up in what's next or weighed down by what's already happened. But that's not the invitation God gives us. In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 6, Jesus reminds us not to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries of its own. Each day holds enough of its own. God cares for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field—and surely, Jesus says, God will care for you.

So, this week, wherever you find yourself—on the porch, in the pew, at the table—I hope you'll let go of yesterday's regrets and tomorrow's worries long enough to notice the mercy that meets you fresh every morning. That's where peace begins. Not in some grand gesture, but in the simple, daily choice to be present, to love as we are loved, and to let peace start with us.

And to quote a famous song writer, "Reach out and touch, somebody's hand..."

Peace and blessings to you all, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report



Saint Paul's @ The Farm
HOME COMING
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.**

Sunday, September 13 – a Very Special Day! Homecoming Sunday at Saint Paul's is an annual event at the beginning of September and ushers in the return of our Christian Formation classes, our choirs, and our Bible/Book studies. It is a special worship and fellowship day when we invite friends, families, and neighbors to join us in what feels like a "family reunion" for the church. And, of course, we gather around the table in Fellowship Hall following the service for Pastor Tim's famous meatloaf and share in potluck side dishes, desserts, and fun conversations. What a beautiful time to enjoy the blessings of our church family and friends and reconnect! So, start planning now! Invite your whole family, your friends, your neighbors! Dig out a fun old recipe side dish or dessert to share. (The meatloaf and mashed potatoes and gravy are provided.) See you for Homecoming Sunday, September 13!

2nd Annual Barn Yard Sale! It's time to start planning for our 2nd Annual 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.



Wednesday Interactive Returns - A Truly Interactive Experience. Wednesday, September 9, at 6:30 p.m., we are 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.

Your Gifts Matter—Talent Survey Time. Each year as summer turns to fall, we invite you to consider the beautiful ways you share your gifts in service to this faith family. Maybe it's through music or teaching, landscaping or projects here on the farm. Perhaps it's in fellowship—leading or participating in a study group or faith formation gathering. Or in worship—as a lay leader, lector, communion server, or scripture reader. Or in Christian formation—as a teacher or classroom assistant. And yes, it might be multiple ways. Whether you've completed a talent sheet before or this is your first time, we're asking every household to fill one out. It takes just a few minutes, and it helps us tremendously as we discern where God is calling each of us to serve. Drop your completed survey in the basket at the welcome desk—you can even do it before you leave today. If you'd like to learn more about any of these opportunities, simply check in with Donna, Nicole, or Pastor Tim. We'd love to tell you more. Your gifts are not small. Your willingness to answer the call to ministry—in whatever form that takes—is how we become the church together. Thank you for saying yes.

Upcoming Worship

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

September 6 ~ 15th Sunday after Pentecost
"You're All I Need to Get By"
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
Worship Leader: Drew Faust
Lector: Ashley Rosboschil
Acolyte: Piper Dressler
Flower Sponsor: Available
Offering Counters: A. Mahon, D. Spear
Communion Assistants: Jenn Van Horn,
Louise Litzy, Donna & Gary Bennett
*September Usher/Greeters: Earl & Terri Fisher,
Sue Mahon, Carol Oberlin, Amy Mahon, Steve Brown,
Bob Gift, George Mull, Shelly Sholley*

Music Is in the Air @ The Farm. There's something about this time of year—when the Chancel Choir returns rested and ready to serve, when the Bell Choir begins rehearsing this coming week—that signals a beautiful reawakening. It's not the formal liturgical new year (that arrives with Advent), but it matters deeply. It matters a lot. This is when we reignite our shared life together. When we rejoin our voices and hands in service. When we remember that being the church means showing up, sharing our time and talents, and worshiping from the heart. To all who have decided to sing or play bells: thank you. Your commitment to this ministry shapes us all. You are the heartbeat of our worship.



Sunday Morning Breakfast. Our Sunday morning breakfast is back for its 8th year, beginning Sunday, August 30, at 10 a.m. What started as a simple continental offering has grown into a beautiful gathering of about 75 people each week. This year, we're making it easier and more joyful for everyone. Breakfast is served from the Fellowship Hall kitchen from 10:00–10:25 a.m., with coffee ready at 9 a.m. A Kitchen Coordinator will be on hand to help serve.

Here's what's new: We're offering a rotating, preplanned menu so you can choose how to participate. Partner with one or two other families to share the responsibility, bring a suggested dish on your own, offer a donation, or simply come and be nourished. Every contribution—large or small—matters equally. Suggested menus and ways to divide responsibilities are available on the sign-up sheets at the sign-up bar. Questions? Reach out to Kathy Showers or Lisa Bernard. No pressure. No comparison. Just community around the table. Join us as we nurture this family together.

There's a Seat at Every Table. And there is always something happening @ The Farm! 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.

New Ways to Gather this Fall:

- **Soul Sisters:** Women of all ages welcome for friendship and connection! Facilitated by Autumn Faust. Next gathering TBA.
- **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 9, 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

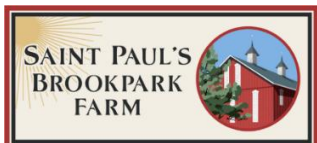
Continuing Ways to Gather This Fall:

- **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:** September 4, 7 p.m. (Lbg @ Shik; Milton @ Hughsville; Miff @ 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 Fall Festival to welcome friends, family, and neighbors.
- November 7: **Soup, Bake, Craft & Barn Yard Sale for Missions.**



Corporate News & Farm Report. Our property management team has been working steadily to care for The Farm—repairing roof leaks, cleaning gutters, weeding, and maintaining all 14 buildings and grounds to the best of our ability. It's the kind of faithful, behind-the-scenes work that keeps our community welcoming and thriving. You'll notice some beautiful additions around the grounds: six new Adirondack chairs for quiet moments

of rest and reflection, and a new horseshoe pit in honor of Myrtle Hogan and her love of the sport. **Coming Soon:** We'll be inviting volunteers to help prepare two of our buildings for new tenants. One project will focus on exterior work, the other on interior updates. At least three new tenants, whom we feel fit beautifully into our desire to better serve the community are coming to The Farm, and we're excited to share more details as soon as we're able. In addition, our new road sign is nearing completion, and we're awaiting final bids on the Barn build-out—with one bid complete, another in progress and one more to come. There's a lot of good work happening here, and we believe the best is yet to come. Watch this space for updates as we continue to prayerfully follow where the Holy Spirit leads us.

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 10:25, 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. (First one is October 11) On the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together. (Next one, though, is September 13, Homecoming Sunday with Pastor Tim’s famous meatloaf!)

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 (starting 9/9). 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, September 28, 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.**



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
A United Church of Christ Community

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