



Saint Paul's Possibilities

October 8, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

I have a small confession to make: I get a little giddy when autumn rolls around. The crisp morning air, the brilliant reds and golds stretching across our hillsides, the faint aroma of a woodburning stove or fireplace somewhere in the neighborhood—to me, it feels like the start of the most wonderful time of the year.

Of course, I try to keep my excitement a bit muted around folks who don't share my enthusiasm! For many of us, the first cool breeze isn't a celebration; it's an unwelcome reminder of the cold, dark days just around the corner. By the time November knocks at the door, the grumbling starts in earnest: the days are too short, the nights are too long, and the thought of hunkering down indoors feels heavy.

I want to honor that. Shorter daylight and bone-chilling cold can be genuinely difficult, and I certainly don't want to romanticize the winter blues. But creation has a gentle way of reminding us that there is purpose in every season—even the ones that feel quiet, cold, or bare.

Consider the trees that cover our mountains and shade our streets here in the valley. As autumn arrives, a tree doesn't fight the season or panic about the falling temperatures. It simply responds to the rhythm God built into it. It stops producing chlorophyll, allowing hidden pigments of amber and crimson to shine. It pulls its vital sugars and nutrients deep down into its trunk and root system. And then, with remarkable trust, it lets its leaves fall to the ground—protecting its branches from being broken by heavy winter snows.

By winter, that same tree appears stark and lifeless against a gray sky. But it isn't dead at all. It is resting. Deep in the cold soil, its roots are still alive, absorbing moisture during mild thaws and quietly preparing for the growth to come. There is profound spiritual wisdom in that quiet rhythm.

In spring and summer, our lives are often loud, busy, and full of outward energy. We are out in the sun, tending gardens, visiting neighbors, and doing the visible work of blooming and bearing fruit. But we were never created to bloom twelve months a year. No living thing can survive in perpetual summer.

Autumn invites us into a holy time of release—a moment to ask what leaves we might need to let fall so that we aren't weighed down by heavy burdens we were never meant to carry. And winter invites us into rest.

Sometimes that inward turn feels uncomfortable. When the calendar slows down and the evenings grow quiet, we are left alone with our thoughts. We look inward and immediately start finding things we want to criticize or fix. But the quiet of winter is not an invitation to harsh self-judgment or religious performance. It is a gentle invitation to rest in the care of the Creator. It is space to listen, to breathe, and to let God tend the hidden soil of our hearts.

In 1986, composer Natalie Sleeth gave the church a beautiful gift in her beloved "Hymn of Promise." She reminded us that within every buried bulb lies an unseen flower, within every seed an apple tree, and within the cold, snow-covered silence of winter, a spring is already waiting to be revealed in God's good time.

If you find yourself dreading the shorter days and the colder weather ahead, take heart. You don't have to carry every season on your own strength. God is present just as deeply in the quiet resting as in the loud blooming—in the hidden root-work as much as the summer shining.

May you receive the season you are in today with gentle grace. May you find space to release what you no longer need, rest in God's abiding love, and trust the quiet, holy work happening beneath the surface in the season to come.



With love and gratitude, Pastor Tim

The Farm Report



The Energy Is Palpable @ The Farm! Take a walk around The Farm this week, and you will feel it immediately: the crisp autumn air is paired with a lively, palpable energy and excitement. God is truly at work in this space, and we are watching our community grow, connect, and flourish in wonderful ways.

We are delighted to welcome two new business partners to our campus:

- **Executive Level Limited** brings fine men's clothing to The Farm and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **The British Baking Company** is currently open on Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with additional dates and times—including special Friday hours and Sunday mornings after worship—presently under discussion.

The gracious spirit and mutual support among our campus partners is inspiring, and we are already in conversations with two additional businesses who hope to join our welcoming community here in the near future.

All of this lives out our Brookpark Farm guiding motto: “A Corporation for the Benefit of the Community.” We encourage you to stop in, say hello, and support our newest neighbors, along with our wonderful established shops: The Rail Trail Tack, Colonial Candle Crafters, The Swirl Shop, and Brookpark Pets.

This vibrant environment is made possible by the hands and hearts of so many who care deeply for this place. Our heartfelt thanks go to Jen and Bob, Chip, Steve, Tina, and all of our dedicated volunteers who give their time, gifts, and labor to help build a better community for everyone. Stay tuned for more exciting news about upcoming tenants and Brookpark Community Events just around the corner!



Candy for a Cause! As we gear up for Monstrous Love Sunday and our annual Trunk-or-Treat, we are gathering treats that share God's big, generous love with all of our visiting neighbors—and we would love your help! We are looking for friendly faces and families willing to host and decorate a trunk, as well as donations of candy and ramen soup cups. We have learned over the years that for many children, a cup of ramen is just as exciting as a sweet treat, so donations of either (or both!) are deeply appreciated. Costumes welcome too.

If you are unable to shop, you can still support this sweet outreach with a financial gift. Simply place your donation in the offering plate or click the Give button on the top of our church website homepage to give online, making sure to include “Candy/Ramen” in the memo line (<https://www.spuccfarm.org/>). We invite everyone to participate in whatever way feels most comfortable for you, and please be sure to invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come join the fun. Thank you for helping us share monstrous-sized love with our community!

Join us on **Sunday, October 18**, by wearing pink to church

as we together honor, celebrate, or remember those in our lives who have been affected by breast cancer. Then stay for our annual Octoberfest Luncheon. Brats, kraut, mashed potatoes, and rolls provided. Bring your favorite side or dessert to share as we celebrate fellowship, community, and hope around the table.



Flu Shots will
be rescheduled.
Please stay
tuned.

Upcoming Worship

October 11 ~ 20th Sunday after Pentecost
“Do That”
Philippians 4:1-9; Psalm 23; Matthew 11:28-30
Worship Leader: Lisa Bernard
Lector: Rhonda Newton; Acolyte: Kyra Richard
Flower Sponsor: Susie Gearhart
Breakfast Sponsors: Kister, Hogan-Palazzo
Kitchen: Kathy Showers
Offering Counters: P. Emory, D. Spear

October 18 ~ 21st Sunday After Pentecost
“What Does That Mean?”
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22
Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe Zziwa
Lector: Jessica Mathias; Acolyte: Kato Kazibwe Zziwa
Flower Sponsor: Foust, Sholley
Breakfast Sponsors: Mahon, Newton, Rowe
Kitchen: Tina Longan
Offering Counters: A. Mahon, D. Spear

October Usher/Greeters: Don & Peggy Emory, Amy Mahon, Deb Frei, Jen & Chris Arnold,
Donna & Gary Bennett, Sue Mahon, Drew Faust, Betsy Pullen

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
Kathy Rowe - 10/10
Justin Cassidy - 10/12
Dean Haven - 10/12
Richard Armstrong - 10/13
Barb Koch - 10/14
Rhett Sample - 10/15
Jon Hagan - 10/16



Happy Anniversary to ...
Dennis Burns & Deb O'Hara - 10/11
Terry & Linda Valiquette - 10/12
Bob & Barb Koch - 10/14

Soup, Bake, Craft, Wreath & Barnyard Sale: Missions in Action.

Our annual Soup and Bake Sale at Saint Paul's is one of our faith family's oldest and most cherished traditions. Every November, our church family comes together with rolling pins, soup kettles, craft tables, and big smiles to do something truly remarkable: turn simple ingredients and generous hearts into tangible help for our neighbors.

Every dollar raised from this special day goes directly to local missions right here in our community. When a family is struggling to keep the heat on during a freezing winter night, facing unexpected housing or utility bills, or needing emergency food assistance, these are the funds that allow us to step in and say, "You are not alone." These resources also help us partner with local relief agencies across the valley to ensure no neighbor falls through the cracks.

To give you an idea of the impact:

- Last year's sale alone raised \$8,938 for local mission outreach.
- Over the course of the year, Saint Paul's distributed \$44,458 in direct community aid—representing 14% of our entire annual budget (in addition to another 5% in benevolence to the wider church).
- That support touched the lives of hundreds of neighbors right here in our backyard.
- This annual day of fellowship and generosity makes so much of that ministry possible.

How You Can Join in the Fun and Joy! Whether you have been part of this tradition for decades or this is your very first season at The Farm, there is a place for your hands, your heart, and your unique gifts. Here are the many ways you can get involved:

Stir Up Some Soup: Last year, we prepared and sold nearly 500 quarts through our pre-sale! We need cooks and helpers to make our four classic presale favorites: Ham & Bean, Chicken Tortellini, Beef Vegetable, and Chicken Corn. (\$10 each) **Amy Rearick** or **Donna Spear** can help get you connected here. We also need soup makers to provide hearty pots of soup and sandwiches for our Saturday lunch counter.

Bake Something Delicious: If you love to bake, we would love your cookies, pies, breads, and sweet treats for the Bake Sale table! Sign up to bake or help **Carol Snyder** organize and price items on Friday and Saturday.

Share Your Crafts: Sign up to donate handmade crafts for our craft tables or lend a hand to **Lisa Bernard** as we connect with and welcome local craft vendors.

Donate to the Barnyard Sale: After a fantastic debut last year that raised \$2,630, the Barnyard Sale is back! We are collecting gently used housewares, tools, small furniture, and treasures (please, no clothing). If you have items to donate or would like to help organize, price, and sell, check in with **Cyndy Kister** or **Terri Kremer**.

Order a Fresh Christmas Wreath: Add holiday cheer to your front door with a beautiful, fresh-cut wreath for \$22.50, complete with your choice of bow. See **Gloria Lehman** or **Amy Armstrong** to place your order. This fundraiser goes to support our Music program.

Capture Family Memories: New this year! Our resident photographer, **Tammy Erb**, will be offering family Christmas portrait mini-sessions in the Gathering Room (or outside, weather permitting). Keep an eye out for scheduling and pricing details soon!

**barnyard
early bird sale**
furniture, household
items, tools, and more!
**Wednesday
November 4**
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Saint Paul's @ The Farm
50 Brookpark Circle, Lewisburg

Soup, Bake, Craft & Barnyard Sale

Saturday, November 7, 2026 ~ 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- come, sit, and enjoy a lunch featuring a bowl or samples of a variety of home-made soups
- grab a BBQ sandwich or hotdog and a drink
- shop great crafts
- pick up some home-made baked goods
- order a fresh Christmas wreath
- check out great "barnyard" sale items
- and pick up your pre-ordered quarts

For pre-order quarts of soup (\$10)
ham & bean, chicken corn, vegetable beef, chicken tortellini
visit spuccfarm.org, use QR code to order online, or call
570-568-1433 by Friday, October 23



Shop, Taste, and Support our Community
All proceeds support Saint Paul's @ The Farm UCC local mission & outreach serving our neighbors

Shop, Eat, and Invite a Friend: Plan to spend Saturday with us! Bring your family, coworkers, and neighbors for a warm bowl of soup, a fresh sandwich, and a day of community shopping. Several neighboring local businesses are joining the excitement this year with sidewalk sales and open houses, making the entire Farm area a lively, festive destination.

Help Us Spread the Word: Soup Pre-sales! One of the easiest—and most important—ways you can help right now, by taking order forms to your workplace, neighborhood, family, and friend groups. Ordering is simple:

- In person: Pick up an order form at the Welcome Desk.
- By phone: Call the church office to place your order.
- Online: Scan the QR code with your phone camera (*in the ad at the start of this article*) to order instantly!

Whether you bake a pie, chop vegetables, donate a piece of furniture, invite a friend to lunch, or buy a quart or sell quarts of soup, every single act of love adds up to something life-changing for our community. Thank you for being a congregation that opens its doors, rolls up its sleeves, and shows the world what God's love looks like in action!

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. From 10 to 1:25, please enjoy breakfast, coffee, and fellowship then worship begins at 10:30. 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.

Christian Formation @ The Farm. **Faith Connections** classes for all ages run from 9 to 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings, with Miss Colleen and Miss Krysta leading our children and Nicole and Dale Cuer offering a Prayer Workshop for adults. Additionally, 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.

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 British Baking Company right here at Brookpark Farm or from the Farmer’s Market across the bridge 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.

Music and Movement @ 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 practice** from 9:45 to 10:05 each Sunday and bless our worship time twice a month with their selections of music and movement. This group is led by Sharon Styer and Ashley Rosboschil.

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. The next distribution is October 22. 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 October 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. See Terri Kremer with questions. Saint Paul’s also has a “Little Red Wagon” which

<i>Stewardship</i>	
“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 ~ 10/4/26	
Attendance: 150 (5 visitors)	
LIVE Attendance: 1,149	
Virtual Reach: 11,895	
Christian Education: 39	
Plate Giving:	2,252.00
Loose Plate:	251.00
Online Giving:	1,043.06
Operational Total:	3,546.06
Restricted Giving:	102.00
Total Giving:	3,648.06

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 food pantry are: cans of soup, boxes of mac and cheese, and bottles of juice.**

