



Saint Paul's Possibilities

July 11, 2025

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Community,

Rev. Dr. Peter James, in his daily publication, "Prayers from the Cloud," earlier this week shared a story about Biblical Scholar Eugene Peterson (1932-2018) and U2's founding member and lead singer Bono, which I found fascinating. I'm somewhat of a fan of both. Bono had mentioned Peterson in a Rolling Stone article which led in a somewhat comical way to their meeting.

Eugene Peterson, being fluent in ancient Hebrew and Koine Greek, labored long and hard to translate the entire Bible using modern equivalent language and contemporary idioms. It consumed ten years of his life. He entitled his translation, "The Message," which was first published in 1993 when he was 61 years old. Peterson received fierce backlash though for his work from several sectors of "the church." Dr. James reminded us in his writing that Peterson shared that the letters he appreciated most were ones of support from inmates who had read "The Message." Several wrote, "I never knew I could read the Bible (until I began reading The Message) and now from Bono."

He went on to note that "Bono often read Eugene's translation of Psalm 116 during concerts as a lead-in to the song, *Where the Streets Have No Name*. And the U2 song '40' which paraphrases Eugene's translation of Psalm 40, itself a prayer to God."

Dr. James' writing led right into discussions this week during our Monday Morning Reflections gathering. We were discussing different versions of the Bible, and how at different times different ones speak to us differently. We also discussed different worship styles and even different ways to be the church. We discussed how, as a group, we felt it is healthy to have different worship styles as the Holy Spirit leads each faith community in different ways. I noted for myself it is so important to have the message we are sharing on Sundays all connect--from the liturgy, to the hymns, anthems and special music, to the message from the pulpit--it is important to me that they all connect. In doing so we share the scripture lessons in many ways for people in many different places in their lives to receive and process the message however is best for them. Some people may receive the message through word--written or spoken-- and some through song. Just as we may receive the word differently through different translations of the Bible.

I believe God created us all in unique and beautiful ways. We learn and grow in our faith in diverse and beautiful ways. I also think it would be a truly boring world if we all looked at everything the same way--we certainly wouldn't learn very much from one another; we would only affirm one another. And thus, we still need to be open to listening and learning from one another.

Being a pastor to a unique and wonderfully diverse community of faith is a challenge and a blessing, both of which I love. Together, we get to create safe space for one another to be and to learn and to grow. We seek ways to accept each other wherever we are. We search for meaning and understanding beyond self and always through the eyes of God's uniting love, not political ideology but through the eyes of what Christ would do, loving and serving and uniting ourselves as one body, which we do through different ways.

I so appreciated Dr. James' prayer he shared, which Bono used in his concerts and Eugene Peterson had offered in his translation of Psalm 40. Like reading scripture in different translations, we seek what speaks to us where

Join Us in Prayer for

Linda Beaver
Gloria Brandt
Earlene Brasher
Gary Chambers
Nicole & Dale Cuer
The Engle Family
Greyson Greenawalt
Celeste Hampton
John "Tad" Hampton
Joan Helwig
Al & Ruth Henry
Pat Korizno
Kathy Lahr
Gloria Lehman
Katy Mahon
The Bender/Reid Family
Mary Renninger
Canaan Robinson
Savanah Spacil
Family of Joanne Oister
Ralph Ritter
Chuck Schworer
Tommy Ward
Russ & Donna Wynn

we are. We seek and the Holy Spirit moves. It gives me hope and joy that through those different ways we can find common ground to form unity to loving and serving God because through God we abandon our differences and seek to understand the unity God calls us into, through the ways best suited for us.

Dr. James shared this prayer as an affirmation on Monday morning, which I saw as a call to abandon all that separates us from one another. *"I waited and waited and waited for God. At last, he looked; finally, he listened. He lifted me out of the ditch, pulled me from the deep mud. He stood me up on a solid rock to make sure I wouldn't slip. He taught me how to sing the latest God-song, a praise song to our God. More and more people are seeing this: they enter the mystery abandoning themselves to God."* (Psalm 40.1-3 The Message)

May this too be our song and prayer. May we not seek out differences pointed out by our humanness, but unity created in God for us all.

Thanking God for all the pathways to growing in love and unity we receive.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Flood Relief Response Requested. First and foremost, we hold those affected by the storms and flash flooding in Texas, New Mexico, North Carolina and urban areas of Illinois and their loved ones, in our prayers. Andrew Long-Higgins, team leader for Global HOPE (Humanitarian, Opportunities, Partnerships, and Empowerment) said he and his colleagues have been in contact with the South-Central Conference of the UCC and the Illinois Conference of the UCC to monitor the situation and determine how to best support recovery efforts for all these areas.

"Flooding has become one of the most common natural disasters affecting communities across the United States. Disaster Ministries supports the long-term recovery of communities through a variety of mechanisms in the months and years after the initial disaster event," Long-Higgins said. "These efforts are made possible by the generosity of the wider church. Gifts made to Disaster Ministries designated for "severe storms" will be used in full (100%) to assist the victims of this flood and other like flooding disasters."

You can help support the relief and long-term recovery of those affected by these severe storms, and other communities that have experienced similar events across the US here: <https://ow.ly/ecij50Wm0HR> (select "Severe Storms" as the designation). Or, by making a donation here at church and marking it for UCC Disaster Relief. 100% of all funds go directly to support the groups they have been designated for; none of your donation will go to support administrative costs. Thank you for your support in us being the church in the way we believe Christ intended us to be for all people.

Fresh Express. Every second and fourth Thursday, more than 225 families come to the Farm to receive groceries. Groceries which we get to distribute from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, along with donations from Weis and Giant markets as well as our own Phil, the freezer. Twenty-five plus volunteers gather at 1 p.m. to receive, pack, and distribute the groceries starting about 3 p.m. Families begin lining up for food usually by noon and by 5 p.m. we are wrapping up service to 500 or more people total. Over the past eight plus years we have greeted thousands of individuals at over 155 distributions and never had to turn a soul away who came for food. Your work as a church has and continues to mean the world to so many people. If by chance you are looking for something to do on a second or fourth Thursday afternoon come by the Farm and stop at Grace Place. There's always something to do and without fail you will be greeted with a warm smile, a shared word of encouragement, and maybe a dance move or two because in serving our neighbors there is always room for fun. And if you can't get to Fresh Express, maybe offer a word of encouragement to one of our many volunteers and help us celebrate the things we get to do to be the church.



We All Scream for Ice-Cream! Please plan on staying after church on July 20, bring a picnic side to share, and get your discerning taste buds ready to choose our 2025 Golden Scoop Award winner! It's anybody's game. Ice cream makers / competitors... pick up containers July 13 to prefill and freeze and place them in the church freezer before the luncheon.

Wet & Wild Family Fun! Back by popular demand is our Wet & Wild Family Fun night @ The Farm, Sunday, July 13, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.! Water games abound in the meadow for this unique way of a summer cool off! The menu is pizza, salad, and desserts starting at 5 p.m. Assistance is always needed either with the games or food (sign up for salad or dressing or provide a dessert). We work hard and we play hard, and we enjoy spending time together. If wet and wild is not your thing, there will be time for fellowship and conversation on the porch following dinner.



Camper News! This year's theme: By Another Way! Campers and volunteers, if you haven't, it's time to register for HC Spirit 2025! Use the QR Code below to register.

**UCC Hartman Center
Spirit Camp**

**Dates: July 27 – Aug 2
Ages: K-12**

**5725 Old US Highway 322
Milroy, PA**



**Camp Options:
Sunday-Wednesday
"Getting Started K-1"**

**Wednesday-Saturday
"Camp of the Heart"
Special Needs**

**Sunday-Saturday
Elementary, Middle, and High School**

**for more information
use the QR Code**



Scholarships Available

Summer Fun Continues! It's time to come together for:

- Every Sunday Morning ~ Coffee & Conversation
before and after our Worship service
- Every Monday Morning ~ Reflections at 11:30 a.m.
(a second look at the week's texts)
- Every Wednesday ~ Lunch with Pastor Tim on the Porch
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- July 13 ~ Wild & Wet Family Night @ The Farm 5 p.m.
- July 16 ~ Friends Who Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. at Silver Moon
- July 20 ~ Cookout & Ice Cream Freeze off, Following Worship
- July 24 ~ Fresh Express (volunteers from 1-5 p.m.)
- July 25 ~ Word, Wine & Wisdom, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
at Union Cellars
- July 27 ~ Special Teen & Young Adult Event TBA
- August 10 ~ Take Me Out to the Crosscutters, 4:05 p.m.
- August 16 ~ Back to School Chicken Barbeque & Swim, 4 p.m.

Reflection: A serious thought or consideration. At 11:30 a.m. on Monday morning each week, yes even through the Summer, a group gathers to reflect on Sunday's text. The group is made up of some people with knowledge of the Bible and some new to Bible studies and you are welcome. Each person can offer what they may have heard in the text or just listen as we explore different versions of the same text from different Bibles. Sometimes we share snacks, and usually we laugh some too. It's just a good and relaxed environment to reflect on scripture, and we hope that you will join us, too. All are welcome, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday in Fellowship Hall. #seeyou@theFarm



**BIBLE
SCHOOL
2025**

**SUNDAY
JULY 13**

YOU CAN'T GROW JUST ONE GRAPE. GRAPES ALWAYS GROWN IN BUNCHES AND CLUSTERS. GOD MADE US TO HAVE FRIENDS SO WE CAN LOVE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER. ACTS 2:42-47

ASK YOUR CHILD THIS WEEK WHAT THEY LEARNED GRAPES AND THE EARLY CHURCH LIFE!

CRAFTS AND SNACKS ON THE PORCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

Celebrations

Happy Birthday ...

July 13 – Kris Anderson
 July 14 – Nikole Eveland
 July 14 – Amy Mahon
 July 19 – Laurie Anderson
 July 19 – Autumn Faust
 July 19 – Flo Warner

Happy Anniversary ...

July 13 – Cathy & Tom Ward
 July 21 – Heather & Brent Sechrist

On the Journey

Sunday Mornings @ The Farm

- ~ Nursery & Sensory Rooms Open 10:15 a.m.
- ~ Sunday School returns August 31
- ~ Worship 10:30 a.m.
- ~ Children's Church (ages 3 to 2nd grade)
- ~ Breakfast returns August 31
- ~ First Sunday Communion

Music Rehearsals @ The Farm

- ~ Bell Choir Rehearsal returns September 3
- ~ Chancel Choir Rehearsal returns August 31
- ~ Children's Choir Practice returns September 7

Christian Formation @ The Farm

- ~ Second Sunday Connections 5 to 6:45 p.m.
Join us on second Sunday evenings for dinner, lessons, and crafts for all ages. 7/13
- ~ Monday Morning Reflections 11:30 a.m.
Gather with Pastor Tim and dig a bit deeper into the week's texts.
- ~ Wednesday Evening Interactive 6:30 p.m.
Returns September 3.
- ~ Confirmation Class every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5 p.m. exploring our faith through class and field trips.

Fellowship @ The Farm

- ~ Wednesday Lunch with Pastor Tim on the porch, 11:30-1:00 a.m.
- ~ Friends Who Breakfast
7/16 Silver Moon Restaurant, 9:30 a.m.
- ~ 4th Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Union Cellars, 7/25

Serving @ The Farm Mission & Outreach

- ~ Fresh Express 2nd & 4th Thursdays 1-5 p.m.
7/24, 8/14, 8/28
- ~ Harvest Meal 4th Mondays @ St. Andrews, Milton 1-5 p.m. Next date TBA
- ~ Emergency Food Pantry is always available @ Grace Place (little red wagon drop off)

This week's "Little Red Wagon" needs are:
peanut butter, jelly, soup, apple sauce, shelf stable milk, canned vegetables, Chef Boyardee canned meals, and grocery gift cards.



Stewardship

Gifts & Offerings July 6, 2025

"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 (5 visitors)

Attendance on LIVE: 600 Virtual Reach: 4,941

Christian Education: 27

Plate Giving	\$ 1,175.00
Loose Plate	\$ 194.00
Online Giving	\$ 679.94
Operational Total	\$ 2,048.94
Restricted Giving	\$ 300.00
Total Giving	\$ 2,348.94

Upcoming Worship

July 13, 2025 ~ 5th Sunday after Pentecost

"What If God is One of Us?"

Luke 10:25-37

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf

Lector: Hillary Cree Acolyte: Rhett Sample

Kitchen Coordinators: Dennis & Deb Burns

Flower Sponsor: Saint Paul's Family

Offering Counter: A. Mahon, D. Spear

July 20, 2025 ~ 6th Sunday after Pentecost

"Martha, Martha, Martha"

Luke 10:38-42

Worship Leader: Sue Overdorf

Lector: Chris Arnold Acolyte: Kadence Gill

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Flower Sponsor: Available

Offering Counter: S. Brown, D. Spear

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

Not able to be here in person on Sunday morning? Join us LIVE on Facebook and YouTube. Connect with us online at: [spuccfarm.org](https://www.spuccfarm.org) and follow us on Facebook.



Saint Paul's @ The Farm
A United Church of Christ Community

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