



Saint Paul's Possibilities

September 25, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

I came across an advertisement for a church the other day whose proud slogan was that they were “definitely not your ‘grandmother’s’ church.”

Setting aside for a moment the fact that I’m old enough to be a grandparent to a fair number of folks these days, the slogan made me pause. I understand what church marketers are trying to say—they want to promise you won’t find stiff wooden pews where everyone is shushed, rigid dress codes, or an endless list of unwritten rules.

Yet a quiet question rose in my heart: Was everything about our grandmothers’ churches really so bad?

When I look back on the church of my grandmother’s generation at its best, I don’t remember cold rigidity. I remember deep, abiding, lifelong relationships. I remember people who showed up in every season of life—casseroles arriving when someone was sick, hands held in hospital rooms, tears shared at gravesides, and genuine joy at baptisms and weddings. We genuinely knew and loved each other. At their best, those churches were anchored in an enduring faith that cared far more about sharing the tender love of Jesus than policing who belonged.

Things went off course when human-made rules and gatekeeping replaced the living Spirit—when traditions became fences instead of tables. In recent decades, many churches tried to fix this simply by changing the surface: swapping the choir for a band and dressing casually. But too often they kept the same rigid exclusionary barriers. They changed the wallpaper but left the fences standing.

Here at The Farm, we believe in a very different way forward. You don’t have to throw away rich traditions—the comfort of familiar hymns, the reverence of prayer, the warmth of generational connection—to be a community of radical love. Our prayer is to be a true sacred safe space where you are welcomed exactly as you are, without having to perform perfection.

In Matthew 22, when religious leaders tried to trap Jesus with legal technicalities, he cut straight through the clutter:

“‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.” (Matthew 22:37–40)

Jesus makes it crystal clear: every law, commandment, and practice hangs on these two hooks. If our religious habits produce judgment or exclusion rather than love, they have lost their anchor. Love is our benchmark, our compass, and our only non-negotiable rule.

That doesn’t mean church life here is solemn or devoid of everyday humanity. Sometimes it’s downright delightful and I would go as far to say, most times, it’s downright delightful.

Upcoming Worship

September 27 ~ 18th Sunday after Pentecost
“Unshaken!”

Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Worship Leader: Drew Faust

Lector: Morgan Richard; Acolyte: Ember Richard

Flower Sponsor: Foust, Sholley, Mathias

Breakfast Sponsors: Cree, Lemmerman, Snyder

Kitchen: Kathy Showers

Offering Counters: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

October 4 ~ World Communion Sunday
“One!”

Isaiah 56:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; John 17:20-23

Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe Zziwa

Lector: Art Schaeffer; Acolyte: Kendrick Swartz

Communion Assistants: Dave King, Frank Wetzel,

Barbara Wagner, Jessica & Scott Mathias

Flower Sponsor: Available

Breakfast Sponsors: Council, Eschbach

Kitchen: Tina Longan

Offering Counters: J. Van Horn, D. Spear

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

Last Sunday, right near the end of the sermon, I looked to my left just in time to see a neatly folded paper airplane sailing gracefully toward someone in the back row. After worship, as the pilot was leaving church, I asked if she had hit her target. She looked a little sheepish, half-expecting to be scolded like she was in the principal's office. I just grinned.

She let out a relieved laugh and said she had. Then I smiled: "And did you hear the sermon today?" Without missing a beat, she smiled right back and repeated the main points of the message to me.

In a rule-bound church, that airplane would have earned a reprimand. But here? She was present, engaged, listening, and had pretty good aim! Relationship always comes before rigid decorum, and curiosity is always better than judgment.

Leading with love does not mean "anything goes." Love is not indifference or total permissiveness; it is deeply accountable. When our words or actions cause harm, love calls us to pause, listen, make amends, and grow. But that accountability comes from a desire to cherish relationship, never to exert control or shame someone into conformity.

Church is about lifelong relationships. It's about being family—sitting by the fire, resting in the rocking chair, bringing our doubts, heartaches, and laughter, and knowing we are held in grace. We practice the way of Jesus together so that when life gets hard, none of us has to walk the road alone.

If love was Jesus' ultimate command, it must be our primary way of being the church. So come as you are. Think before you speak words of judgment or dismissiveness. Bring your questions, your hopes, and your whole authentic self. There is always room at the table, and there is always a place for you here.

Have a wonderful week and love one another in a way they know they are loved and welcomed here too.

Blessings, mercy, peace and love, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Love in Action. Love becomes visible in our community through the everyday ways we care for one another, grow in faith, share our gifts, and serve our neighbors. Here is how you can connect, share the love, and be part of what God is doing at the Farm this week:

Caring for Health: Flu & COVID Vaccine Clinic. Sunday mornings, 30 minutes before worship and 15 minutes following worship (for the next several weeks). Happening in Donna's office, Dr. Bradley Gill of Lewisburg Pharmacy will be on hand to administer seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Simply drop in or sign up. Please bring your insurance card if you have one.

Sharing Your Gifts: Chancel & Bell Choirs. The Chancel Choir rehearses Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Saint Paul's Bell Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Want to share your musical gifts and grow closer to your faith family? Both groups are open to all experience levels. See Patty Wagner for details and join in sharing the love.

Digging Deeper: Monday Morning Reflections. Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room. A welcoming, open conversation exploring Sunday's scripture and message in greater depth. Bring your wonderings and your questions for Pastor Tim. All backgrounds and perspectives are welcome—no prior biblical knowledge needed!

Midweek Faith Formation: Wednesday Evening Interactive. Wednesdays, 6:30–7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room. This season, we are exploring the diverse places and practices where we intentionally meet God in daily life. Come for thoughtful discussion, community, and reflection. All are welcome.



Taking Faith Home, included in your worship bulletin, is a small, well thought out devotional that gives busy households simple, flexible tools to connect worship with daily life. It is our hope that this will encourage you and your household to carry the message of God's love from worship into your everyday routines, conversations, and relationships.

taking
faith
home

Please Pray for

Linda Beaver
Diane Buck
The Clark Family
Baby Elliott
Merle Kay Englehart
Al Henry
Patti Faux
Rebecca Foote
Sharon Foust
Shirley Franquet
Ellie Guerrero
Valerie Ritter
Lisa Rule
Shelly Sholley
Ben Spickler
Amanda Unzueta
Tommy Ward

Midweek Fellowship: Pastor on the Porch/Lunch with Each Other. Wednesdays at lunchtime on the Porch. Take a midday pause to sit, share a meal, and catch up with your church family. Grab lunch from the market or pack your own brown bag—just come enjoy some warm, casual fellowship.

Sunday Mornings Faith Formation & Breakfast. Children's Sunday School (breakfast provided in class) & Nursery care open at 9 a.m.; adults are invited to participate in choir rehearsal or fellowship. At 10 a.m. is breakfast in Fellowship Hall for everyone. Join us for Faith formation classes for all ages—children, youth, and adults. Come build lifelong relationships and grow in faith together. Adult Faith Formation class returns next Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Gathering Room.

Loving Our Neighbors: Community Walk to End Hunger. Next Sunday, October 4, at 1:30 p.m. gather with neighbor churches (check the welcome desk for starting location) and join us as we walk alongside local congregations to raise awareness and support food security in our region. 100% of all funds raised directly benefit local food pantries here in Lewisburg and surrounding areas. If you are unable to walk, you can still participate by sponsoring your Saint Paul's team at the Sign-Up Bar.

New Beginnings: Youth Confirmation. Beginning next Sunday, October 4, at 5:00 p.m. in the Gathering Room for ages 13 to 18. Just another way to build relationships and share the love.

Upcoming Fellowship Opportunities! Hayride and Chicken Barbecue.

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for our Annual Hayride and Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, October 10, beginning at 4 p.m. at Northhill Orchard in Winfield. We will gather for an afternoon of wonderful fall fun. Sign up today and come celebrate the season with us!

- Chicken barbecue, hotdog roasting, and s'mores around the campfire
- Scenic hayrides through the orchard and flower fields
- Visits to the pumpkin patch and feeding the animals
- Games and activities for children of all ages

The Next Day: Blessing of the Animals and Family Night. And the fun doesn't stop there! On Sunday, October 11, we continue our celebration of community and connection with two wonderful events. Join us at 4:00 p.m. in the meadow for our Blessing of the Animals. Bring your beloved pets to receive a blessing as we give thanks for the creatures who bring joy and companionship to our lives. (Pets welcome—just leave the snakes and spiders at home!)

Then, at 5:00 p.m., we gather for the first **Family Night** of the season with a potluck dinner followed by karaoke! Whether you have the voice of an angel or prefer to cheer from the sidelines, everyone is welcome. This is a night of laughter, connection, and pure fun for families of every age. Come as you are, bring a dish to share, and prepare for an evening of joy and togetherness. We can't wait to see you there!

Monstrous Love Sunday. Sunday, October 25, 1:30–3:30 p.m., in the Barn parking lot. What ways can you help show monstrous-sized love? Join us for our annual Monstrous Love celebration—a joyful gathering open to all our neighbors and friends! We'll share free hot dogs, popcorn, and cider as we come together in the spirit of fun, fellowship, and faith. Dress up in costume as you are able, and plan to spend a great Sunday afternoon with us. We need your help! Please sign up on the sign-up bar to provide decorated trunks, treats, or both. Every contribution makes this celebration possible and helps us extend love and welcome to our entire community. We hope to see you there!

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...

Dustin Shoemaker - 9/26

Joan Weaver - 9/27

Bob Koch - 9/30

Jeannette Gill - 10/2

Kadence Gill - 10/2

Cora Kazibwe Zziwa - 10/3



Happy Anniversary to ...

Jimmy & Donna Spear - 9/27

Tyler & Lauren Troup - 9/30

Scott & Jessica Mathias - 10/1

Jon & Heidi Hagan - 10/2



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. **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.

This week's featured pictures capture Pastor Tim and brother Finley above preparing the water for sweet Elowyn's baptism this past Sunday. And, Godparents, Morgan and Dillon, along with parents Hillary, Ethan, and baby Elowyn listening to the story of baptism.



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. 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 October 8 and 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 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.**

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 ~ 9/20/26

Attendance: 191 (29 visitors)

LIVE Attendance: 891

Virtual Reach: 9,252

Christian Education: 47

Plate Giving: 2,061.00

Loose Plate: 505.00

Online Giving: 1,743.28

Operational Total: 4,309.28

Restricted Giving: 350.00

Total Giving: 4,659.28

