



Saint Paul's Possibilities

June 20, 2025

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Some years ago now, I went to see a local health provider for an initial medical exam. We were new to the area at the time and with our insurance we were exploring providers for care. I picked this specialist, one of the few close to home in Lewisburg. I arrived at my appointment, filled out all the pre-visit paperwork, and was taken into an exam room. Once there, I received the typical pre-doctor visit triage from one of the technicians. She thanked me and said the doctor would be in shortly.

He arrived, introduced himself and sat down to go over my paperwork prior to beginning the exam. He began asking me questions. What did I do at my place of employment? Learned I was a pastor. Curious to know if we actually taught from the Bible. Asked me why I had insurance through another man's insurance. Curious to know what my relationship was to this man--clearly nothing to do with my visit that day. A few moments into the conversation, he stood up and excused himself.

Moments later, the technician came back into the room and said, "Ok, the exam is over. Please come with me." I was confused and thought she had the wrong room. She said no, that the doctor I was to see said the exam was over. Still very confused, I got up and quietly followed her to the front desk still thinking either there was a mistake or that the doctor had an emergency. The girl at the front desk said thank you for coming, I asked if there was a problem and she just said, "The doctor said your exam was over." I turned and walked out, dumbfounded. What had just happened?

I have never had an experience like that and haven't had one since. I was hurt and sad and 15 years later I still remember that day and drive by that provider's office every day to see the outside sign with messages claiming "friendly service" from a Christ-centered provider--as he'd made sure I knew what church he attended, you know, "the one where they preach from the Bible."

Something didn't match up then, and it doesn't match up now. That is not judgment. It is a statement of fact. I was denied service because I was gay. I was judged because I was a pastor at a church where all were welcomed, loved, and respected. We were a church who fed the hungry, went on mission trips, sang praise to God, helped our neighbors, and fellowshiped together and always tried to do as we understood Christ's example called us to do. And really, we did it without a lot of fanfare.

While the doctor was asking me questions, I asked him what church he attended. Sadly, I would learn later, his response told me all I needed to know. I found out rather quickly it was the "M.O." of some area churches who were high up on the list of judgment of others, driving wedges into our community. Believe the way they believe or else. And as I would come to learn, it's not just LGBTQIA people, it's people who have been through a divorce. It's women who have had children out of wedlock. It's people that may be struggling. These people don't fit the mold of who is welcome in some churches. And many of them--after denied a place of worship, denied a faith family connection--never come back to a church.

*All of this, while it's not ok, is their opinion, their belief, and their decision. And there is nothing any of us can do about it. **Except to serve as a living example of who we believe Christ calls us as individuals and as the church to be.***

Another clergy person I had met soon after moving here explained her story out of the blue one day, not knowing of my incident. She shared with me that she had been called names while walking down the street.

Join Us in Prayer for

Earl Amaker
Linda Beaver
Diane Bettleyon
Earlene Brasher
Gary Chambers
Nicole & Dale Cuer
The Engle Family
Greyson Greenawalt
Celeste Hampton
John "Tad" Hampton
Joan Helwig
Al & Ruth Henry
Robin Hoffman
Kathy Lahr
Katy Mahon
Nancy Jean Snyder
Savanah Spacil
Joanne Oister
Chuck Schworer
Emily Schworer
John Waldron
Barb Wagner
Tommy Ward
Flo Warner
Russ & Donna Wynn

Called names because her skin tone wasn't the same as a majority of people we are accustomed to seeing on the street. I was shocked. Another clergy person shared that their church had received letters from pastors and others in the area condemning them for being open to "all people." Didn't they know if they welcomed the wrong people, they would go to hell with them? Calling some of my colleagues "devil worshippers" and accusing them of leading people to hell because they didn't preach about hell.

If you are shocked reading this, I can safely assume you have never experienced something like any of this. And for that I am thankful. You see, I don't want anyone to have to experience rejection, pain, sadness or disenfranchisement from--ever and especially--from a church or faith community. Yet I know many main line denominations and non-denominational churches who grouse about the decline of "their" church yet are afraid to fully be the church.

I tell you these stories this day to say to you, be self-aware, let others know there is a place for them, there is a space for them, speak from your actions that we will welcome and love all. Sometimes we will make mistakes, but we know this: God covers us in God's great grace. God fills us with God's great love so that we may let that love overflow in radical, welcoming ways to all we meet.

Go out and be your church's story. Welcome your neighbors. Offer those who don't have a safe space, a sacred space, tell them there's a place for them, as we like to call it home. Be the crazy Jesus lover, the difference maker, the peacekeeper. Be love. We need that now more than ever I believe, and you are never wrong for doing something out of a place of God's radical love.

Let's make sure anyone having an experience like the one I had knows there is another way. Another place. And the next time you see someone speaking out against being treated poorly, know this, they may have experienced something you have never experienced and be thankful and show grace. For I believe we need a lot more of that in this world, that and love, today and always. Amen.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

One Nation. Communities United. Saint Paul's @ The Farm will once again be sponsoring a float in this year's Union County Veterans' Fourth of July Veterans Parade, June 28, 10 a.m. in Lewisburg. This year's float, "They Fought for All," will feature a tribute to the Union County Veterans' Memorial Monument and famous quotes and sayings throughout history signifying unity. We are asking for faith family members from all walks of our community to help us with float preparation and building, riding or walking in the parade with us, and to help pass out candy. Please join us if you are able, starting this Wednesday in Fellowship Hall and consider walking the parade with us on Saturday. Float building work will take place this coming week:



- Wednesday 11:30 a.m.
- Thursday & Friday 5 p.m.
- Saturday morning prior to the Parade



Come Sit Among the Vines. Did you know, our fourth Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom session, now almost four years old, takes place monthly, mostly at Union Cellars, 4760 Furnace Rd, Lewisburg? Our next WWW is Friday, June 27. Bring a snack to share, grab a glass of wine, and join us as we discuss life, faith, and just have a generally great time together. All are welcome and there is a play area for kids, so come on out and join us in a sacred safe space to just relax and enjoy some great fellowship and maybe share in some faith thoughts. See you at UC on Friday, June 27 @ 4:30 p.m.

A Huge Shout Out! We give a huge shoutout to Earl Fisher and his “little running legs.” Earl ran over 8 miles last Sunday morning as a part of “Go Greg and Fill the Freezer.” Over the years Earl has been a significant part of both of these efforts helping Saint Paul’s raise money for Go Joe/Go Greg in support of the St. Joseph’s Center Day Program and this year “Fill the Freezer” helping to supply proteins for our neighbors. This year’s event featured a luncheon, raffle baskets, indoor games, and of course Earl’s Run and weekly “bell ringing” on the porch. Raffle Basket winners include: Kris Anderson-Lottery Ticket Basket; Kris Anderson-Kid Basket; Scott Mathias-Blooming Rooster Gift Basket; Broghan Gill-Snack Basket; and Joanie Weaver-Kid Basket. Stay tuned for complete totals of this year’s event.



An Apple a Day... Keeps the doctor away! It’s also known in the bible to have healing powers. This week in vacation bible school the children will learn about how God heals Namaan as they explore the fruit of the week—Apples. Vacation Bible School happens each Sunday this summer during Children’s Church and then following worship on the porch with snacks and crafts for children of all ages.

Youth & Young Adult Events. We are looking for organizers to choose an event, plan it, and get the word out. There are several youth and young adult event options for the next several weeks including a trip to Knoebel’s, bowling, hiking with a picnic, a drive-in movie night, minigolf and ice-cream, maybe even an evening at the arcade. The options are wide open, and these events are geared towards our high school and college age youth and young adults home for the Summer. Please reach out to Eric Wagner or Pastor Tim to learn more or volunteer.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday ...

June 20 – Katie Armstrong
June 21 – Niki Weber
June 23 – Liam Hagan
June 26 – Allen Basom
June 28 – Marianne Zeyn
June 30 – Krysta Moyer

Happy Anniversary ...

June 30 – Patty & Eric Wagner

Traveling This Summer? Take us with you. Our services are live streamed on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. as well as archived so you can watch later in your day, if that is more convenient. *Or if you would be so inclined check out a church where you are vacationing as we always have something we can learn from each other and then come back and share with Pastor Tim your experience.* We have a great tech team who ensures a high-quality viewing experience for those watching online, to help you feel like you are right here with us when you are away or can’t be here for any reason. Of course, we always love to have you here in person, however joining us remotely is the next best thing. Sharing Tithes and Offerings over the summer may be done remotely as well. Click on the QR code on the screen during the offering time, set up recurring giving as a part of your Engage account, or register and click the QR code here and save it as a favorite to give either when you are here or while you are away. Your gifts matter and make a difference.



Summer Sundays @ The Farm. Coffee & Conversation (on the porch and in Fellowship Hall) begins at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Nursery & Sensory Rooms open at 10:15, every Sunday. Worship @ 10:30 each Sunday morning. Second Sunday Connections, July 13, 5 p.m. Third Annual Summer Fun, Ice Cream Freeze-Off, July 20. Many other activities, like Monday Morning Reflections, Fourth Friday Word, Wine, & Wisdom, Take Me Out to the Ballgame, and our Summer Chicken Barbeque & Swim, and other activities are listed on our online special events calendar via our website. Check out all the summer activities and join us when you can, as we aren’t the same when you are not here.

A Joyous Celebration!

The Kazibwe Family is so excited to be able to celebrate David becoming a citizen! You are invited to join them on Sunday, June 29, at 629 Walnut St in Mifflinburg. It will be open house style so come and go as you please from 2PM-9PM. There will be swimming, food and drinks!



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.
April 23 to June 25 "Searching for the Sacred: Sixty Meditations on Faith, Hope, and Love"
- ~ 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
7/2 Street of Shops Restaurant, 9:45 a.m.
- ~ 4th Friday Word, Wine & Wisdom, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Union Cellars, 6/27

Serving @ The Farm Mission & Outreach

- ~ Fresh Express 2nd & 4th Thursdays 1-5 p.m.
6/26, 7/10, 7/24
- ~ Harvest Meal 4th Mondays @ St. Andrews, Milton 1-5 p.m. 6-23
- ~ 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 June 15, 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: 156 (5 visitors)

Attendance on LIVE: 763 Virtual Reach: 4,950

Christian Education: 21

Plate Giving	\$ 1,995.00
Loose Plate	\$ 187.25
Online Giving	\$ 708.84
Operational Total	\$ 2,891.09
Restricted Giving	\$ 2,151.00
Total Giving	\$ 5,042.09

Upcoming Worship

June 22, 2025 ~ 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

"Think You Got Problems"

II Kings 5:1-15; Luke 8:26-39

Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart

Lector: Tracy Baylor Acolyte: Kadence Gill

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan

Altar Flower Sponsor: Carol Oberlin

Offering Counter: P. Emory, D. Spear

June 29, 2025 ~ 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

"Am I Missing the Point?"

Psalms 16; Luke 9:51-62

Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart

Lector: Donna Spear Acolyte: Bo Gill

Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers

Flower Sponsor: Sue Overdorf & Georgia Heckman

Offering Counter: P. Emory, D. Spear

June Usher/Greeters: Earl & Terri Fisher,

Kris & Laurie Anderson, Barb Wagner, Steve Brown,

Bob Gift, Shelly Sholley

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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