



Saint Paul's Possibilities

October 22, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

This past Sunday, we reflected together on the words of Paul and Timothy in 1 Thessalonians: “We always give thanks to God for all of you.” It is a phrase that has stayed close to my heart all week—and one I find myself saying often whenever I think of our Administrative Assistant, Donna Spear. In fact, I have been saying it to her for just over six years now, and every single time, I have meant it with my whole heart: I thank God for you.

Six years ago, right in the middle of the pandemic, Saint Paul's found itself searching for an Administrative Assistant. Those were days filled with uncertainty—none of us knew quite what the future would look like or even how or when we would gather back together, but we were doing our best to keep church life familiar, welcoming, and strong amid the turmoil around us. Our faith community had grown significantly and was beginning to burst at the seams of our little church building, and we were navigating it all with a very small part-time staff alongside a full-time pastor.

When the opening occurred, I turned to an online search engine to find candidates. After several good interviews and an offer that ultimately fell through, another candidate found her way to us by God's grace. Donna had retired in January of 2020 after 36 years of teaching and leading business classes and training for the Milton School District, and by that autumn, she felt ready to return to the workforce part-time. As she would later share, her dream job had always been to work for a church. She replied to our ad, and when we met and interviewed, we both knew immediately that it was a match. When Donna officially joined our staff in October of 2020, it was a true God moment and an answer to prayer for both her and Saint Paul's.



Think of the seasons we have walked through together since that autumn. Donna has been with us through the heart of the pandemic, guided us as we transitioned out of it, helped set up our Church Data Management System, and navigated two complete church moves without missing a single beat. As a solo pastor leading a growing congregation, I could not have asked for a more steady, dependable partner in ministry. Over these six years, Donna has welcomed thousands of people through our doors, supported our Consistory and staff, faithfully tended to our day-to-day office and financial operations, and cared for the members of this church family with quiet grace and deep compassion.

Donna brought more than administrative skill to the position. Her background as a business teacher, her understanding of systems, and her remarkable ability to make order out of complexity have been invaluable to us. But what I have appreciated most is that she has never treated the work as merely a job. Behind every spreadsheet, database entry, phone call, and Sunday morning detail, there has been a person she wanted to help and a church family she genuinely cared for.

So, when Donna shared with me recently that she is reaching a milestone season in her life and is ready to fully retire, it came with a natural mix of emotions: a little sadness for our daily office presence and routine, immense gratitude for all she has given, and genuine joy for what lies ahead for her. Donna is looking forward to enjoying family and church life without the demands of a weekly calendar—and with the wonderful joy of becoming a grandmother for the first time just a few weeks away!

One of the greatest gifts Donna offered when sharing her decision was the reassurance that she isn't going anywhere. As she told me, she is simply stepping into a season where she can participate even more actively in other areas of being the church @ The Farm.

Over our time together, Donna quickly became far more than a coworker. We have laughed together, cried together, and laughed some more. We have worked side by side to comfort, support, and feed our neighbors, and she has done it all with a warm and generous smile. Donna and her family are, and will always be, part of our family.

Donna graciously offered to stay with us through this transition until someone could step into the role. I always hesitate to use the word “replacement,” because no one can ever truly replace Donna Spear; rather, someone new will step into the position and make it their own with their unique gifts. God has already been moving in beautiful ways, and I look forward to sharing more about our incoming staff transition in the coming week.

In the meantime, would you join me in giving God thanks for Donna. Her presence, her dedication, and her servant’s heart have blessed us beyond measure.

We will host a special time to celebrate Donna and honor her ministry with us in the coming weeks, so please stay tuned for those details. Until then, when you see Donna or connect with the office, be sure to surround her with your love and gratitude for all she has given to our church home and to all of us.

With deep gratitude and peace, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

All Saints Sunday: Remembering with Gratitude, Hope, and Love. Each year on the first Sunday of November, our faith family pauses alongside Christians across the globe to remember and give thanks for the beloved ones who have gone before us over the past year. This year, we will observe All Saints Sunday on Sunday, November 1, during our 10:30 a.m. worship service @ The Farm.

All Saints Sunday is often called the family reunion of the church—a sacred morning of remembrance, comfort, and quiet hope that honors the enduring bonds of love that unite us across time and space. It is a time when our faith family holds a gentle, sacred space for shared grief and heartfelt gratitude. During the service, we will read aloud the names of the 18 loved ones our community is remembering this year, lifting up their lives and the lasting imprint they have left on our hearts.

In our faith tradition, “saints” are not distant, flawless figures painted in stained glass. Pastorally, a saint is simply an ordinary person through whom the extraordinary love, grace, and light of Christ have shone—the parent, grandparent, spouse, partner, friend, and neighbor who shaped our lives and handed down faith, kindness, and wisdom to us. Surrounded by this “great cloud of witnesses,” we are reminded of who we are: people held by grace, called to honor the legacies entrusted to us, and encouraged to live out Christ’s compassion in the world today. We hope everyone in our faith family who is able will gather with us for this special service of remembrance and celebration. As we give thanks for the legacy and faithfulness of these 18 saints, our presence together offers a tangible gift of love, compassion, and support—surrounding their grieving families with the warmth, care, and embrace of our church home.

Wednesday Interactive Begins Again November 4. There’s something about the music of Advent and Christmas that reaches straight into the heart. The carols we sing carry our deepest prayers of anticipation, comfort, and joyful celebration—echoing hope in a weary world. The book, **“Carols for the Coming Christ: A Daily Devotional from Advent to Epiphany”** will be available the first night of class with no prior reading required. This experience weaves together timeless, familiar carols with beautiful new hymns of the season and pairs song with Scripture, thoughtful commentary, engaging reflection questions, and creative response prompts. Pastor Tim kicks off the series on November 4, and together we will travel from the longing of early Advent, through the wonder of Christmas, culminating in the light of Epiphany on January 6. There is a place for you. **Gathering Details:** Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in The Gathering Room. To allow for the holidays we will gather: **November: 4, 11, 18; December: 2, 9, 16; and January: 6 (Epiphany).** All are welcome here!

Upcoming Worship

October 25 ~ 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
“Nothing Else Matters”
Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 22:34-40
Worship Leader: Kelly Kazibwe Zziwa
Lector: Jeanie Council; Acolyte: Finn Rosboschil
Flower Sponsor: Dianne Covert
Breakfast Sponsor: Candace Robinson
Kitchen: Kathy Showers
Offering Counters: S. Brown, D. Spear

November 1 ~ All Saint’s Sunday
“Defining Salvation”
Revelation 7:9-17; John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12
Worship Leader: Jen Arnold
Lector: Richard Armstrong; Acolyte: Delilah Sample
Flower Sponsor: Saint Paul’s; Kitchen: Tina Longan
Breakfast Sponsors: Nicole & Dale Cuer; Available
Communion Assistants: Kate Schaffer, Heidi Hagan,
Kelly Kazibwe Zziwa, Carol Oberlin, Autumn Faust
Offering Counters: E. Fisher, D. Spear

November Usher/Greeters: Bill & Lisa Bernard, Louise Litzy,
Joanna Johnson, Tracy Baylor, Tyler & Emma Hott,
Frank Wetzel, Kim Ritter, Chris Warner

Our Children's Voices and Joy Return to Worship. In just a few short weeks, on Sunday, November 8, our Children's Movement and Music Choir will return to help lead us in worship! Under the caring direction of Sharon Styer and Ashley Rosboschil, our young people have been practicing diligently, sharing lots of laughter, and discovering the joy of praising God through song and movement. Moving forward, our goal is to have the children help lead worship a couple of times each month—and we want to make sure every child who would like to be part of this experience is warmly included.

We know Sunday mornings can sometimes feel rushed for families, so we want to make participating as easy and welcoming as possible. Our Children's Christian Formation class begins at 9:00 a.m. with a light breakfast for the kids, followed by engaging lessons, sharing, crafts, and learning with Miss Colleen, which flows right into our music and movement time. If your family is able to make it at 9:00 a.m., we would love to have your children join us for the whole morning. However, if an earlier start doesn't fit your schedule on a given Sunday, please know your child is still completely and warmly welcome to jump in and join the Music and Movement team which begins practice at 9:45.

While the children are learning and singing, parents have plenty of wonderful ways to spend that hour as well:

- *Coffee & Quiet Time: Relax with a warm cup of coffee and enjoy a quiet, unhurried moment.*
- *Choir Rehearsal: Lift your own voice with the Chancel Choir in the Sanctuary.*
- *Adult Faith Exploration: Join in thoughtful conversation and study with other adults in the Gathering Room.*

Whether your family joins us for the full morning or steps in just in time for singing and worship, there is a place for your hands, your voices, and your hearts here @ The Farm. We cannot wait to celebrate the gifts and joy our children bring to our faith family. Won't you join us?

Thanksgiving Around the Table: Room for Everyone at The Farm.

For some time now, we have held a quiet hope close to our hearts: opening the doors of our church on Thanksgiving Day so that no one in our faith family has to spend the holiday wondering where to go or sitting at a quiet table alone. Holidays meet all of us in different seasons of life. For some, family lives too far away to make the long drive. For others, the family table looks different this year, or plans are quiet, or you simply love the idea of sharing Thanksgiving fellowship with your church family. Whatever your circumstances may be, we want to offer a warm and joyful alternative: come join us for lunch on **Thanksgiving Day at 12:00 noon**. Pastor Tim, Chip, and Miss Myrtle will provide and roast the turkeys. We invite everyone to gather around the table for a family-style potluck meal. If you are able and would like to bring a favorite side dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share, that would be wonderful! But please hear this gentle reminder with your whole heart: bringing food is never a requirement to be here. Your presence is the true blessing, and there will be more than enough for everyone.

A sign-up sheet is on the Sign-Up Bar so we can prepare plenty of seating and get a sense of what dishes people might like to bring. (You can also sign up just to let us know you are coming!) Please don't feel you have to spend the day alone, navigate a stressful trip, or eat by yourself. Your faith family loves you, and there is always a place at the table waiting for you right here at home @ The Farm. Come share the table with us—we would be honored to celebrate Thanksgiving with you!



You Showed Up, Showed Out, and Walked the Walk! A tremendous, heartfelt thank you to everyone who laced up their sneakers, sponsored a walker, or offered words of encouragement for this year's **Lewisburg Walk Against Hunger!** Our Saint Paul's faith family truly embodied love in motion. Not only did we represent our community with the largest walking group at the event, but through your incredible generosity, we also surpassed our giving from prior years by contributing a grand total of **\$1,112.00!** Every single dollar stays right here in our local area, helping put food on the table and fight hunger across our community at a time when that support is needed more than ever. A very special word of gratitude goes to Kim Ritter, once again our wonderful church organizer for the event, for her dedicated leadership in coordinating our team, gathering registrations, and guiding us every step of the way. Thank you, Kim, for leading us with such joy and commitment!

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
Beth Ann Vincent - 10/23
Riley Gill - 10/25
Tyler Hott - 10/25
Lorren Huff - 1/25
Candy Locke - 10/26
Piper Dressler - 10/27
Ethan Cree - 10/28
Patricia Wagner - 10/29
Chadrick Bastian - 10/31
Susan Bastian - 11/1
Cathy Ward - 11/1



*Have we missed
your birthday or
anniversary?
Please let us know
in the church office
so that we may
celebrate with you!*

Happy Anniversary to ...
Sergio Marques & Allen Fasnacht - 10/24
Brooke Swartz & Samantha Spence - 10/31

Annual Soup, Bake, Craft, Wreath & Barnyard Sale Reminders! We are just about two weeks away from our biggest fundraiser of the year for missions. Whether you bake a pie, chop vegetables, donate a treasure, or invite a neighbor to lunch, every gift blesses our community. Thank you for once again putting God's love into action! Please check out the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall to see ways that you may help.

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.

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 ~ 10/18/26

Attendance: 167

LIVE Attendance: 948

Virtual Reach: 10,452

Christian Education: 54

Plate Giving: 1,838.00

Loose Plate: 442.00

Online Giving: 1,455.88

Operational Total: 3,735.88

Restricted Giving: 495.00

Total Giving: 4,230.88

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 distributions are November 12 and Tuesday, November 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 October 26, 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. Our current needs include: *Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce, Chef Boyardee cups, Instant potatoes (boxes), Canned, boxed, or cup soups, Peanut Butter, Shelf-stable or powdered milk, Cereal, Knorr's Noodle and Sauce Mix, Knorr's Rice Side Dishes, Ramen Noodles.*

