

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

This past week, when the temperatures plummeted and the snow began to fall, Saint Paul's opened its doors as a Code Blue Warming Shelter. We did it in partnership with the Union County Office of Emergency Planning and Services and the Red Cross, after learning there was no other shelter open in Union County—and that Haven Ministries, the closest homeless shelter, had 60 people on their waiting list just to get a bed during the storm, we knew it was the exact right thing to do.

You responded immediately. Within hours, we had a shelter ready to house up to 50 people. You brought food—lots of food, because that's who we are. You signed up for shifts, some of you staying 2 hours, others 8, ensuring we had coverage around the clock. As of this writing, we've staffed this shelter for more than 100 hours straight.

Several of you have asked: "Are people coming? Is the shelter busy?" The honest answer is: not as many as we expected. But here's what I want you to know—that doesn't mean this wasn't exactly what we were called to do.

When the local fire company brought us a young woman whose tent had collapsed under the weight of the snow, we were ready. She was cold. She was scared. And she found a warm place, a safe place, and people who looked her in the eye and said, "We will not leave you alone."

Over the days she's been with us, she has taught us about living in nature, about how the animals respond to her presence. We've been able to help her get clothes for a new job she's preparing to start. She has told us her story. We have listened. And we have learned a bit about peace from her.

This is what it looks like to be the body of Christ. Not measured by how many people come through the door, but by whether we are ready when even one person needs us. Faithfulness isn't about filling every bed. It's about showing up, staying present, and offering what we have.

And here's what else has happened: Setting up this shelter has opened our eyes. We've learned there is no shelter in Union County. The closest options are in Sunbury, Williamsport, or Danville. We know there are people living in tent encampments right here in our communities. We know that some shelters are only open at night, or only during the day. The need is greater than we expected.

And the beautiful thing is, our setting up a shelter has sparked conversations. What can we do next time? What might we be called to do beyond a storm? How can we be a sustained presence for our unhoused neighbors?

Several years ago, I helped start a Sunday evening worship service at a local coffee shop, designed to reach college students. It didn't draw the crowds we hoped for—mostly folks from our own congregation showed up. After a couple of years, we ended the service. But we had no regrets, because we'd learned something valuable: we discovered the needs of the college-age community, built a partnership with the University Chaplain, and connected that congregation to the University in a new way.

Please Pray for

Laurie & Kris Anderson
Linda Beaver
The Burns Family
Carol Engle
Traci Eschbach
Robin Huffman
Dottie Leeser
Todd Miller
The Pigos Family
Cindy Prether
Ed & Eileen Prowant
Chuck Schworer
Dave & Barb Wagner
Tommy Ward
Russ & Donna Wynn
Unspoken Requests

Updates to our Prayer List are made by calling the church office, filling out a prayer request card located in our sanctuary, or by posting on our prayers and love FB page.

I thought about that experience this week. Sometimes ministry isn't measured by numbers or immediate results. Sometimes the greatest fruit is what we learn, the relationships we build, the doors that open for the next faithful step.

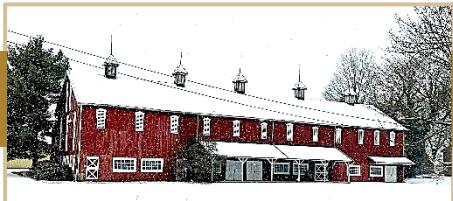
If we hadn't opened this shelter, would we have realized the depth of the need? Would we have discovered the gaps in services? Would we have met this young woman and heard her story? Would we have experienced the energy and fellowship that came from serving together?

You have been the church this week—warm, welcoming, generous, and present. You've offered food, shelter, safety, and dignity. You've shown up in the cold and the night. You've reminded me why I love this faith family.

This is just the beginning. I don't know yet what comes next, but I know this: God is stirring something in us. The need is real. And we are ready to respond.

Thank you for being the church. Thank you for showing up. Thank you for staying, serving and feeding our neighbors.

With Gratitude and Hope, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report

Thank You for Your Faithful Generosity! Every gift we have is a gift from God—and we are so grateful for your faithful generosity in giving back a portion of what God has so graciously given us. Your gifts make it possible for Saint Paul's @ The Farm, your faith community, to live out our mission and care for one another and our neighbors. *The 2025 Contribution Statements may be picked up at the church this Sunday or during office hours.* As you review your giving statement, we pray it reminds you of the incredible partnership we share in God's work being the church for all God's people.

**Sunday Evening, February 15
Dinner at 5:00 ~ Talent at 6:00**

**You are invited to come aboard for a
Night of Talented Adventure ...**



**... and our annual
Saint Paul's
@ The Farm Delicious
Spaghetti and Meatballs
Dinner!**

If you've got talent to share, please reach out asap to Gloria Lehman, who's preparing the program to set sail! Come and find out what's ALL ABOARD!

Open to All. Like our communion table, membership in this faith community is open to all. If you are interested in official membership or just have questions, please reach out to the church office or Pastor Tim directly. Over the next few weeks Pastor Tim will be available in Fellowship Hall just before and during the breakfast hour for informal conversations and questions. Our next new member **Sunday is February 8**, during worship.



Is This Thing On? Welcome! Please know that we livestream our services on Facebook and YouTube, and we capture special moments to share across our social media platforms. By joining us in this space, you are part of our shared worship. If you have a special case for legal or safety purposes in which you cannot appear in video, please notify a greeter / usher so that we may make accommodations for you. We are committed to making sure everyone feels safe and honored in this space.

Please join us Sunday, February 22, 2026 as we celebrate all that we got to do in 2025. We will recognize our volunteers and staff as we celebrate our year in review Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place immediately following worship and there will be cake. All are invited. #seeyou@TheFarm



A Room That's Become So Much More. It started as a space for The Travelers on Sunday mornings. But then something magical happened—it became essential to who we are. The Gathering Room (located behind the Sanctuary piano) hosts: The Travelers (Sunday morning Faith Connection Class for ages 9th grade to 99). Monday Morning Reflections, a time to meet with Pastor Tim to take another look at Sunday's scripture and its meaning for our lives in today's world. Wednesday Evening Interactive seasonal book study (shown in the picture). Board and Consistory meetings, staff meetings, lunch meetings and many more gatherings.

We added a fireplace. The light is warm. The walls hold conversation. And so many of you have told us: This room feels sacred. If you haven't been yet—come see what we built together. Whether you're looking for a quiet place to think, a welcoming space to learn, or just a room that feels like it was made for gathering—the Gathering Room is waiting for you. Stop by on a Sunday morning. Join us for Monday Reflections. Wander in and sit by the fireplace. This is what happens when a community decides to build something together. This is what we create when we say yes to each other. We aren't the same when you're not here—and we can't wait to see you in the Gathering Room!

Upcoming Worship

February 1 ~ 4th Sunday following Epiphany
Communion Service
"How to be Human"
Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 5:1012
Worship Leader: Drew Faust
Lector: Autumn Faust
Communion Assistants: Scott & Tracy Baylor,
Louise Litzy, Jenn Van Horn
Acolyte: Kate Parker

Kitchen Coordinator: Tina Longan
Breakfast Sponsor: The Faust Family
Flower Sponsor: Available
Offering Counter: S. Brown, D. Spear

February 8 ~ 5th Sunday following Epiphany
"Light Bright Theology"
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20
Worship Leader: Drew Faust
Lector: Chris Arnold
Acolyte: Molly Faust
Kitchen Coordinator: Kathy Showers
Breakfast Sponsor: The Arnold Family
Flower Sponsor: Available
Offering Counter: E. Fisher, D. Spear

February Usher/Greeter Team: Bill & Lisa Bernard, Scott & Tracy Baylor, Louise Litzy, Joanna Johnson, Reba Rohrer, Chris Warner, Kim Ritter

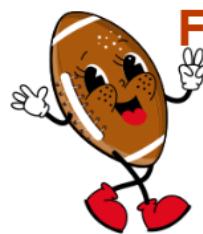
Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
Olivia Mahon - 2/3
April Masker - 2/4
Christine Parker - 2/4
Makaila Huff - 2/9
DeAnna Bystedt - 2/13



Socially Acceptable Behavior.

Improve your social media positive feed by liking us, following us, and checking us out regularly on Facebook or Instagram. Sergio Fasnacht has begun regular posts on our public page, *Saint Paul's at The Farm a UCC Faith Community*, along with a beautiful video each week. Like and share, help spread the word about your faith home, love abides, love abounds, love leads us home.



Family Night @ The Farm 5 p.m. Sunday, February 8 Superbowl Party!

Please let us know what favorite party food you'll bring.
Sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Or, let Colleen know.

Have you considered sponsoring flowers to be placed in our Sanctuary during worship? We have several open dates for sponsorship. Flowers can be placed in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one, friend, neighbor or in appreciation for something someone has done for you.

Sign up form is on our website homepage.
Or, contact the church office for more information.

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. Our **Faith Connections** classes run from 9 to 10 a.m. and include Pre-K to 3rd Grade **Explorers**; 4th to 8th Grade **Pathfinders**; and 9th Grade to Age 99 **Travelers**. From 10 a.m. to 10:20, 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** from 5 to 6:45. On the **3rd Sunday of each month**, we gather around the tables in fellowship hall for a meal together.



Pictured are those who gathered Sunday morning here in the Sanctuary, January 25, during the snowstorm. We are grateful for the ability to bring our worship service into your homes via livestream for those times of tricky travel.

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. 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.

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 5:15 to 6:15 and plays for worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. The **Children’s Choir** practices during a portion of the Faith Connection classes with Miss Sharon and Miss Ashley and they bless our worship time once a month with their selections.

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 February 12 and 26.

We also participate in **Community Harvest**, a monthly distribution on the 3rd Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at St. John’s UCC and in conjunction with Bucknell’s Center for Community Engaged Leadership, Learning & Research.

And, Saint Paul’s has a long history of offering an **Emergency Food Pantry** that we lovingly refer to as our “Little Red Wagon” Our needs at this time are for: **Local Grocery Gift Cards to: Aldi, Giant and Weis. Gas Cards: Sheetz, Wawa, and Weis, any canned fruits and vegetables with pop tops, shelf stable milk, small bottles of vegetable oil, and canned proteins and box dinners, i.e. hamburger and tuna helper.**

You may drop food items in the little red wagon on the porch outside the Sanctuary door and gift cards may be dropped in the offering plate on Sunday morning or to the church office throughout the week.

Stewardship

Gift & Offerings ~
2/1/26

“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: 17

LIVE Attendance: 2,166

Virtual Reach: 8,871

Christian Education: 17

Plate Giving:	1,085.00
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Loose Plate:	
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Online Giving:	2,137.32
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Operational Total:	3,222.32
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Restricted Giving:	200.00
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Total Giving:	3,422.32
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Saint Paul’s @ The Farm

A United Church of Christ Community

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Church Office Contact: 570-568-1433 / admin@spuccfarm.org

Pastor’s Email: PastorTim@spuccfarm.org

Church Website: <https://www.spuccfarm.org>