



Saint Paul's Possibilities

August 7, 2026

News & Engagement

Powered by Grace and Coffee

a weekly reflection by Pastor Timothy Hogan-Palazzo

Dear Faith Family,

Have you experienced a little Jesus this week that sparked a beautiful God moment? Last Sunday, we talked about small acts—one song, one loaf, one gesture of kindness—and how they multiply in ways we never expect. I hope you were able to share a little Jesus and felt that multiplication in your life this week.

This Sunday, our message invites us deeper: to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, to let Him be our strength through the storms. It's about that singular focus—making Him our God—our "Girl" (in our Motown language), our anchor, the one who steadies us when the world gets us down.

But here's the tender truth: we can't fix our gaze on Christ if our attention is being constantly pulled elsewhere.

Some time ago, I asked if church business discussions could wait for a more appropriate time than Sunday mornings. You responded beautifully, and I've been so grateful for your care in protecting sacred time for our staff. But I'm noticing something else now, and I need to name it gently because it matters.

In this wonderful community of ours, we're so comfortable asking our brothers and sisters anything at any time, especially if they have professional expertise or encounter one another in a professional setting outside of church. Recently, I've witnessed some difficult tension: we all love this faith family deeply and want to be here. But when you're regularly approached before or after worship with professional questions—whether about patient care, finances, operations, or other work-related matters—it creates a conflict. While everyone is gracious and genuinely helpful (that's who you are), I've noticed some family members have had to make the hard decision to arrive right before the service and leave right after, or to step away from Sunday gatherings altogether. They tell me it's become easier to be absent than to tell someone, "I'd love to help, but not right now. This is my sacred time."

People are choosing absence over discomfort. And while I understand—and I know it's not intentional—it breaks my heart for anyone not to be afforded the sacred safe space to just be.

And here's what I want to be clear about: Please don't stop checking in. Ask how their week was. Celebrate their joys. Sit with them in sorrow. That's the warmth of this community, and we never want to lose it. What we're protecting is our sacred time together—that hour to recharge, refresh, and renew. The work questions? They're important. They just belong on Monday morning when you can actually give them your full attention—and when they can receive it without conflict.

Jesus reminded us: "My house shall be called a house of prayer" (Mark 11:17). Sunday morning isn't just another day. It's set apart. It's sacred. For everyone—including those carrying the weight of professional responsibility all week long.

Here's what I'm asking: If you think of a work question on Sunday—about patient care, finances, insurance, operations, student activities—pause. Write it down. Text or call on Monday during business hours instead. That simple act honors both the person and the sanctity of our shared time.

Because here's the thing: when we protect someone's ability to worship without distraction, we're giving them the gift Jesus promises. We're saying, "Yes, keep your eyes on God. The storms will still come, but in this hour, in this sacred space, you can fix your gaze on what matters most."

It's not about being unkind. It's about protecting something precious—a space where we can all truly worship, restore, and be renewed. It's about offering one another the small act of undistracted love.

Will you help us keep Sundays sacred for everyone?

With deep gratitude and grace, Pastor Tim



The Farm Report



Breakfast Anyone? Our Sunday Morning Breakfast Returns. Our Sunday morning Breakfast returns for its 8th year beginning at 10 a.m., Sunday, August 30. What started as a simple continental breakfast—coffee, donuts, fruit, cheese and crackers—to welcome our musicians and Sunday School families has grown beautifully to include about 75 people every Sunday.

But we've learned something important: as the numbers grew, so did the expectations. What was meant to be a light, easy gathering began to feel like a full meal responsibility. Volunteers found themselves trying to feed 75 people. Some brought generous dishes; others brought lighter offerings. And somewhere in that mix, bringing a simple contribution started to feel like it wasn't enough.

That's not what we want. That's not who we are.

So, this fall, we're returning to our original vision—and making it sustainable and joyful for everyone who participates.

Here's how it works: Breakfast will be served from the kitchen from 10 to 10:20 a.m., with a rotating set menu. A Kitchen Coordinator will be on hand to help serve breakfast, and coffee will be ready at 9 a.m. every Sunday. But here's the beautiful part: you get to choose how you participate. Sign up to provide a dish, split a dish with another family, offer a donation, or simply come and be fed. We've designed it so that every contribution matters equally—whether it's one pan of baked oatmeal or two, whether it's a dish or a donation.

Recipes are available, and all dishes have been reviewed for cost-effectiveness. Sign-up sheets are available just inside Fellowship Hall.

We're excited to gather around the table together—no pressure, no comparison, just community. Will you join us? Grab a friend or neighbor and sign-up to sponsor a breakfast or two today.

Opportunity Knocks—Again! The Holy Spirit shows up in unexpected ways, inviting us to serve exactly where we're led. This year, we're participating again in September's Wildcat Backpack Program, providing weekend food for children who might otherwise go hungry when school is not in session.



Here's how we will all serve together... Gather 600 of each of these items:

- Pop Tarts (2-packs)
- Peanut butter packets
- Oatmeal packets or cereal
- Snack crackers
- Canned tuna or chicken
- Canned pasta or soup
- Granola/breakfast bars
- Individual bags of pretzels or chips

The impact: \$500–\$600 total. Just \$2.50–\$3.00 per child to provide seven meals for the weekend. Four ways to participate:

- Donate items — Drop off at the church office or offering plate by Sunday, August 28 at noon, to allow us to pick up any additional items needed for packing on Wednesday.
- Give financially — Put "Wildcat" in your memo line
- Volunteer to pack — Wednesday, September 2, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall or
- Help with delivery — Thursday morning, September 3, school delivery



Saint Paul's Family Chicken BBQ & Back to School Swim Party
Saturday, August 15, at 4 p.m. at the Gill home

Bring a picnic side dish to share and maybe an extra lawn chair.
The chicken is provided. *(it's really good, Mama Gill's recipe)*



Fall is Coming—And We're Excited About What's Ahead This fall, we're deepening our life together with fresh ways to connect, grow, and serve. Whether you're seeking community, spiritual growth, or just a good time with friends, there's a place for you.

New for the Fall:

- **Soul Sisters:** August 25, at noon, Union Cellars. Women of all ages welcome for friendship and connection!
- **The Forge:** A new men's group for relationship building and brotherhood, facilitated by Drew Faust. Kickoff cookout on September 11, 6 p.m. at The Farm.
- **Enhanced Youth & Children Programming:** Confirmation, a new Junior Deacons group, an enhanced children's choir, and continued Second Sunday Family Nights for all ages.
- **Wednesday Evening Interactive:** A reflective study on experiencing the Holy. Fresh look, deeper engagement. Returning September 2, 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Continuing Ways to Gather This Fall:

- **Monday Morning Reflections:** Bible study, 10 a.m.
- **Friends Who Breakfast:** 9:30/9:45 a.m. (1st & 3rd Wednesdays)
- **Pastor on the Porch:** Lunch fellowship, 11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays)
- **Family Night:** 5–7 p.m. (Second Sundays)
- **Word, Wine & Wisdom:** Evening gathering, 4:30 p.m. (4th Fridays)
- **Fresh Express:** Open gathering, 1–5 p.m. (2nd & 4th Thursdays)

And These Fall Adventures:

- October 4: **Walk to End Hunger.** A community gathering to raise awareness and funds for families in need in our area.
- October 10: **Hayride & Campfire Evening.** An annual night of fellowship and seasonal joy at a local farm.
- October 11: **Blessing of the Animals.** Bring your beloved pets for a special blessing.
- October 25: **Monstrous Love Sunday.** Trunk or Treat and a Fall Festival atmosphere to welcome friends, family, and neighbors.
- November 7: **Soup, Bake, Craft & Barn Yard Sale for Missions.**

There's a seat at every table. Pick what calls to you—or try something new or be here for every event, because we are not the same when you are not here. Questions? Call Donna or Nicole in the church office, reach out to Lisa Bernard, Chair of the Deacons, or Pastor Tim.

Celebrations

Happy Birthday to ...
Peggy Rubillo - 8/8
Dennis Burns - 8/11
Joanna Johnson - 8/12
George Mull - 8/14
Tyler Troup - 8/16
Barbara Wagner - 8/16

Happy Anniversary to ...
Nicole & Dale Cuer - 8/13
Jessica & Justin Kozick - 8/15

Upcoming Worship

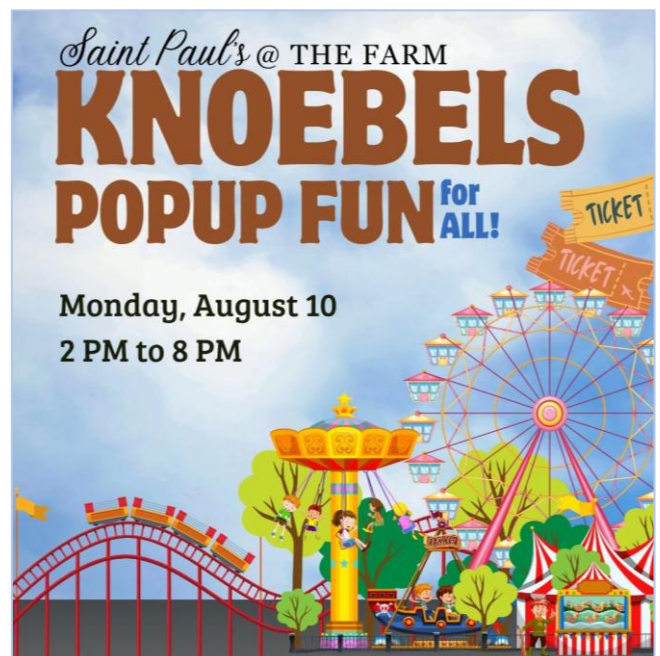
Aug 9 ~ 11th Sunday after Pentecost
"My Girl"
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-23
Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart
Lector: Christine Parker
Acolyte: Finn Rosboschil
Flower Sponsor: Available
Offering Counters: D. Bettleyon, D. Spear

August 16 ~ 12th Sunday after Pentecost
"Reach Out and Touch"
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28
Worship Leader: Susie Gearhart
Lector: Autumn Faust
Acolyte: Sadie Faust
Flower Sponsor: Available
Offering Counters: P. Emory, D. Spear

August Usher/Greeters: Bill & Lisa Bernard,
Louise Litz, Joanna Johnson, Scott & Tracy Baylor,
Chris Warner, Kim Ritter

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, August 30, is the next New Member Sunday. We will celebrate together as new members join our faith family officially. Because that's what you are—family. Welcome home. For questions, more information or to share your intention, please reach out to Pastor Tim.



On the Journey Together ~ Summer @ The Farm

Summer @ The Farm. Through August 23, coffee is brewed and ready in Fellowship Hall for 10 a.m. and our nursery and sensory rooms are staffed and open. While we do not hold our **Faith Connections** classes during the summer season, Miss Colleen provides a robust and fun curriculum and this year the kiddos will become **Glad Scientists** with a lesson during **Time with Our Children** during worship and continuing with a story and experiment during **Children's Church**. Following worship, please enjoy snacks, lemonade, and fellowship on our beautiful porch. We celebrate **Holy Communion** together on the first Sunday of each month, and **Family Night** is monthly on the 2nd Sunday beginning at 5 p.m. While our Chancel and Bell Choirs take a much-needed respite, each Sunday we welcome musicians for **Special Music**.



Join Miss Colleen for our Children's Moment during worship and continue in the classroom where we'll hear the Bible story and carry out the experiment!

Week 10

HYPOTHESIS: The most stuff I have the better.

God's TRUTH: We experience JOY when we store up treasure in heaven.

Weekdays @ The Farm. Monday's 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 on the Porch** 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. Mid-week, we offer **Wednesday Evening Interactive**, a seasonal book/bible study (returning in September). On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month is **Friends Who 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. *This week's picture: Finally! We have a horse on the farm!*



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 ~ 8/2/26

Attendance: 124 (1 visitor)

LIVE Attendance: 1,389

Virtual Reach: 14,916

Christian Education: 21

Plate Giving: 2,822.00

Loose Plate: 180.00

Online Giving: 1,229.73

Operational Total: 4,231.73

Restricted Giving: 564.00

Total Giving: 4,795.73

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 Aug 13 & 27. 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 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please see Terri Kremer with questions or to volunteer.

Saint Paul's @ The Farm **HOME COMING**
SEPTEMBER 13 2026
BRING A FRIEND
STAY FOR LUNCH
FAMILY - WELCOME - TRADITION